

ISSUE #47
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HEAVEN'S METAL

®

Living Sacrifice

Also Featured:
Focused, Brother Cane,
Sometime Sunday, PFR,
Jerusalem, David Zaffiro,
Label Profile: R.E.X.

20/20 Blind



Rose

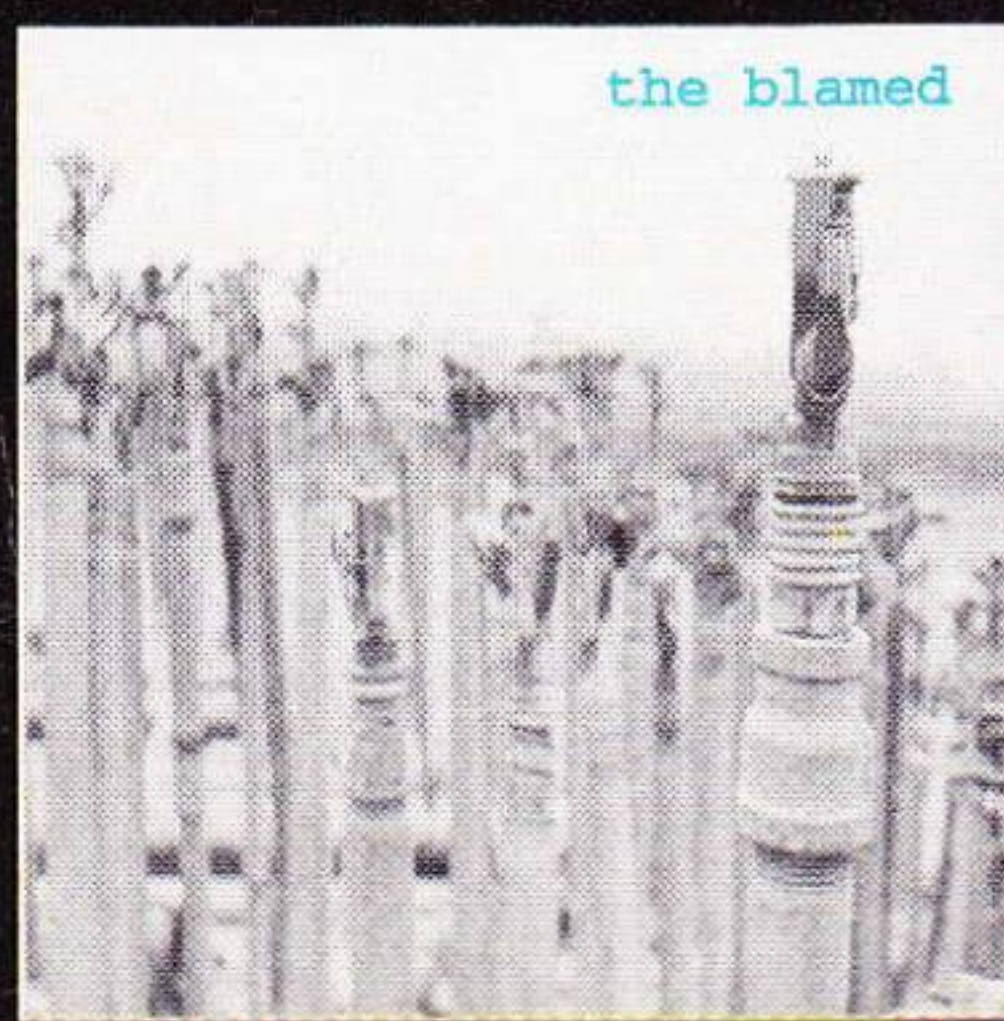
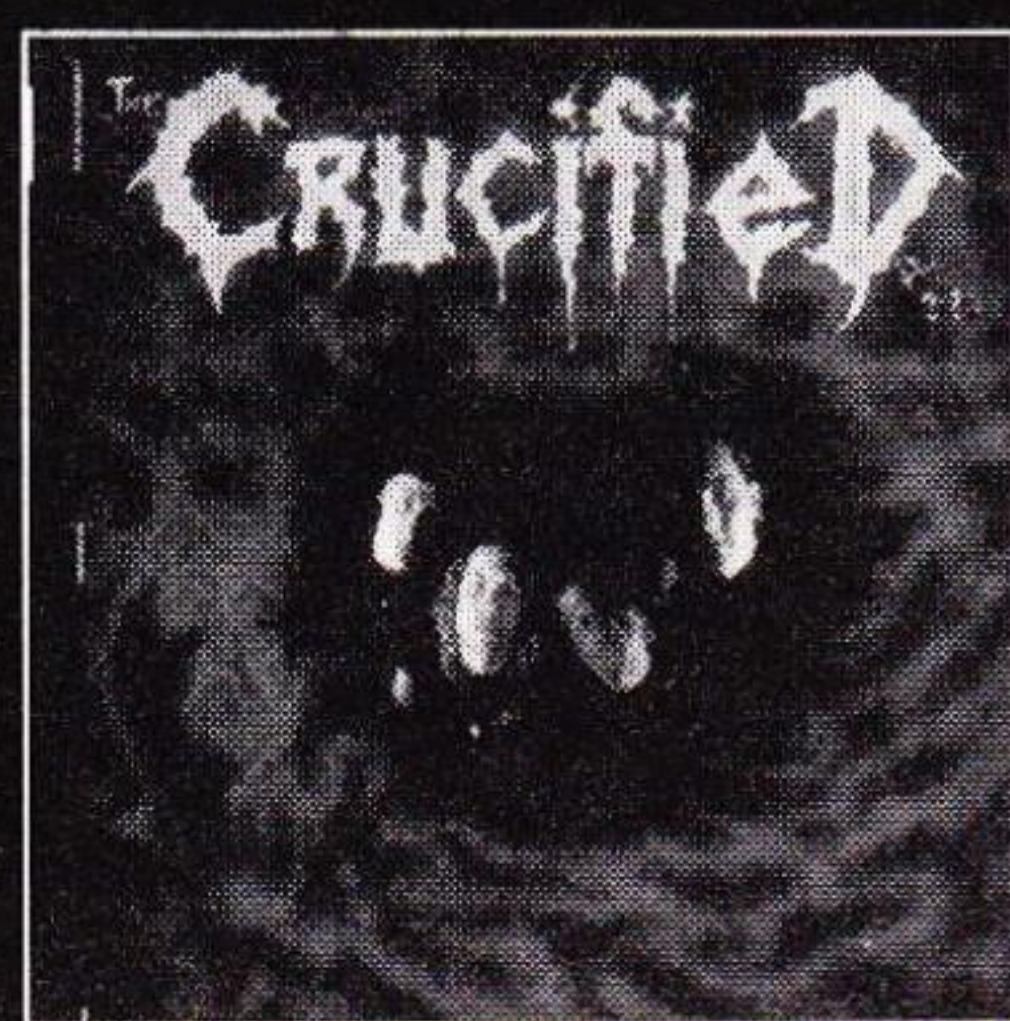
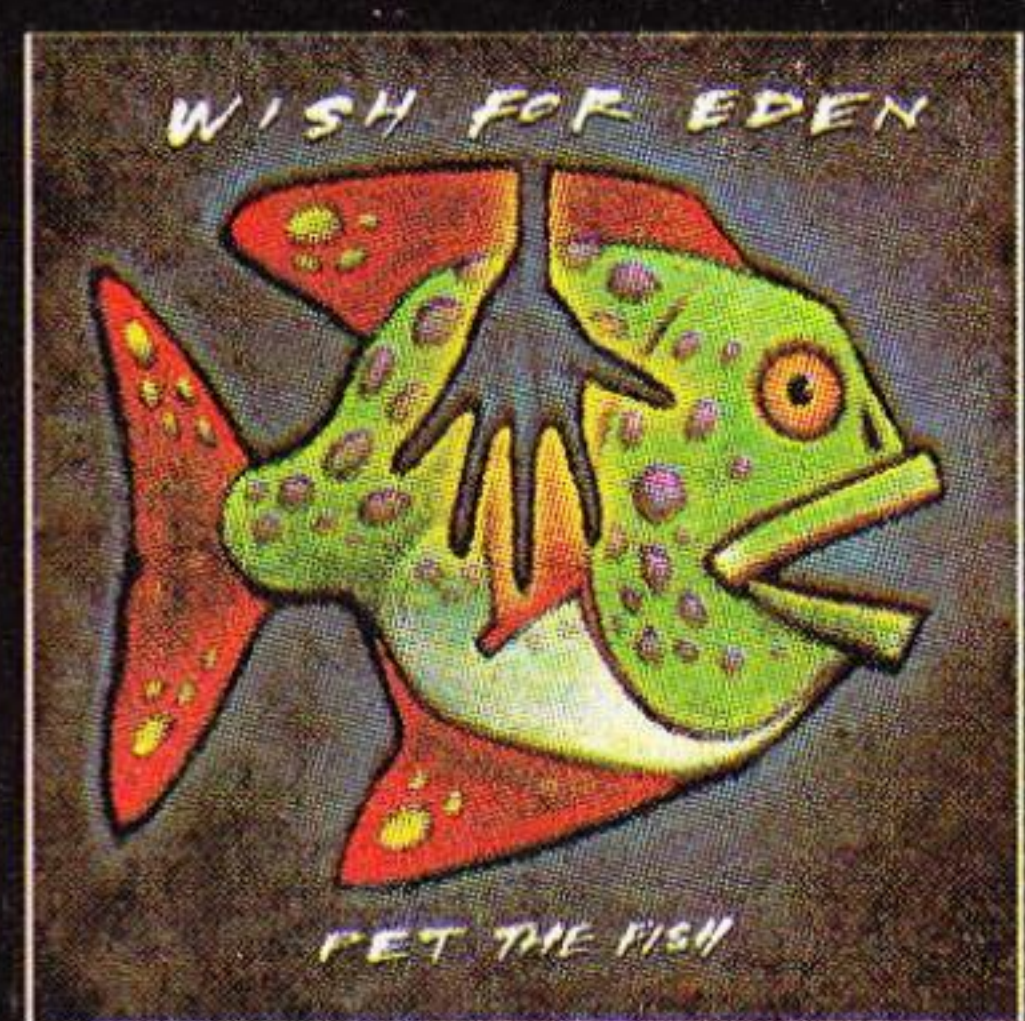


SOMETIME SUNDAY

STONE



OTHER RELEASES FROM TOOTH & NAIL RECORDS



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HEAVEN'S METAL

May/June '94

Issue #47

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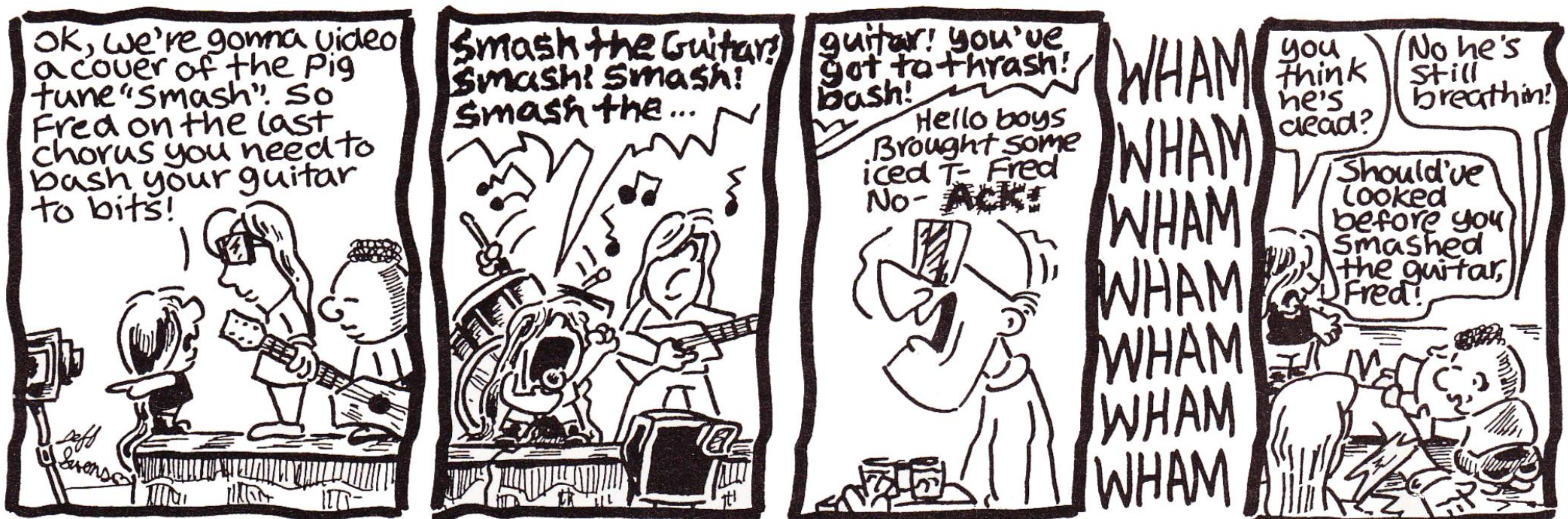
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Scripture

"Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His Name together. Taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:3, 8)

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THE STATE OF CHRISTIAN LETTERS

I never write into these things, so I hate to condescend, but I am very upset. The article about the Christian music industry (#46) and the Bach column about Tortured Virtue have really opened my eyes to the evils in the industry.

All of those responsible for such tragedies should be ashamed and should fall on their knees and repent. You know who you are. If you ever had any shred of godliness in you, you should feel somewhat convicted.

I'm sorry to be so blunt and harsh, but the Bible says we are a peculiar people, and when we succumb to the world so much that we are associated with worldly greed and absence of consideration, we have fallen far below an appropriate level, and surely out of God's hand.

I want to thank you guys at Heaven's Metal for having the guts to tell the truth about an industry which determines your survival. I also want to thank any record label or band who hasn't lost sight of the Great Commission. I'm sure my band and I will be seeking you out in the future.

Again, to the industry: Philippians 4:8 says, "...whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things." Money is none of these things. "For the love of money is the root of all evil."

--Three disappointed band members
 Joplin, Missouri

FREEDOM IN PRISON

Choice greetings in Christ! I just wanted to share a few thoughts with you. I sat in a dark, cold cell feeling empty and alone with nowhere to turn and no one cared. I reasoned in my mind that I was just another human being, destined to die a hopeless death. I couldn't figure out why...it didn't matter anyway. But, somehow, somehow, it's like from nowhere -- this strange power broke through my darkness. I didn't -- and still don't -- know why God loves me unconditionally, but I know that He does and I am glad that He never gave up on me. His power is strong. His ways past finding out. He pursued and found me. I suppose that it's His love that melts the hardest of hearts. He is truly irresistible. He makes clear that which is

humanly impossible to understand. He is real, very real, but not what a lot of our human reasonings have imagined Him to be. His love is strong. He loves us all. I want to be an expression of Him. I want Him to control my life. I want to remain forever humble and grateful. He owes me nothing, but I owe Him my all.

I'm happy that He never gives up on us, and I'm thankful for brothers and sisters who have hung in there! Pastor Bob recently sent me 9 tapes and a personal copy of his Heaven's Metal. That was totally cool!!

There are too many hurting people -- not only in prison, but everywhere. The spiritual bars are much more devastating than the physical. It took 17 years of prison for the Lord to reach me. My only regret is that I did not surrender sooner. I suppose that what we consider the "trials" of life are for the Lord only opportunities for us to get to know Him as He really is and wants to be known. It's like we're born to get to know Him. Life is a beautiful experience... Especially the moment we discover Who He is! The Lord bless you!

Only by His grace,
 Dallas Hans
 Goodyear, Arizona

METAL SCHOOLBOY

Yo! I live in Metal School. Everybody loves metal (almost everybody), but of all the metalheads, I'm the only Christian. I've been witnessing with videos, tapes, and shirts. I'm alone with Christian friends in the next town; but, thanks to the bands who proclaim Him, a P.K. had to think about where he stands with the god of his music or the God of mine. Thanks to Tourniquet for their video that did that. Thanks to Lust Control, whose "It's Cool To Be A Virgin" certificate is hung in my locker. Thanks Heaven's Metal for the watch and the magazine. See you and Pastor Bob at Metal Quest '94.

--Seth
 Lingle, Wyoming

REUNION FOR THE KING!

What a great surprise to find in my mailbox, but your cover story on my favorite metal band -- Barren Cross -- is giving it another try. I have been a longtime Barren Cross fan and was disappointed by the news that, like many other great metal acts, they decided to call it quits. But, I know it was a decision they felt had to be made, and I respect that very much. Like many other Barren Cross fans, I am thankful to God for their music and their ministry, be-

cause their music dealt with social issues such as teenage suicide and drug or alcohol addiction. Additionally, songs like "King of Kings" and "Rock for the King" will rock your brains out and get you excited about our Lord Jesus Christ. As far as the currency of their music goes, if their past music is any indication of what they are capable of producing, I'm certain they will provide us with some really good metal. As much as I really want it to work out for them, I appreciate that they are in it as long as God is in it and that they are seeking God's desire for them as a band and for their personal lives.

--Craig Kerwood
Bremerton, Washington

GALACTIC WITNESS

I just wanted to drop a line and get some things out that have been on my mind about some letters I've seen printed. Mostly this is in response to criticism you've received for the "Galactic Cowboys On Trial" article. Frankly, I'm really tired of everyone telling everyone else how God must use them. God is using Galactic Cowboys.

Someone implied that they (Galactic Cowboys) aren't "spirit-filled" and "on-fire." I've spoken with Monty Colvin both recently and years ago when he was with Morgan Cryar's band. I've met his parents. He is very much on fire for Jesus. I can't speak for the rest of the band, though.

I realize the importance of testimony. As lead vocalist for Bloodpath, I've given them from the stage. Believe me, it's the least significant part of my ministry. I am also a youth minister for junior high school kids. I meet kids all the time outside of concerts or youth functions. That's where ministry is. When I testify from the stage, I may plant seeds, but without gaining a personal relationship with a kid, it's greatly ineffective. When I hear someone complain after a concert that the particular band didn't preach, it ticks me off. I always wonder if the complainer is doing anything in the way of evangelism. If you complain that the band didn't testify, and you walk away without testifying, that's blatantly hypocritical. You could be a lot more effective than the band anyway. I used to witness to people at Christian concerts all the time. Just remember, before you judge a band

for not preaching, that Jesus called you too.

--Alan Newberry
Independence, Missouri

MERCHANDISE WOES!

I had to write about something more people know or will find out: The business side of Christian rock (bleep)! I am so fed up with placing an order for something from the bands and getting it about five months later (no joke). Right now I have been waiting for items from two major bands in the Christian rock scene and they cashed my check in August! I have received nothing and keep on writing them and got no response! I love the music and have been helped by a lot of songs, but if a band isn't going to mail what you ask for, they shouldn't put the order form in the CD. I had better service from bands in the secular world. Most Christian rock bands are not original and sound like everyone else. Why buy imitation stuff? I don't mean to be rude, but I just might save people disappointment and money. By the way, great mag.

--Jason Malone
Jackson, Tennessee

GLENN ROWLANDS UNDER THE DESERT MOON

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Living Sacrifice - Back For More...

Bill Clinton, on his presidential campaign trail, told his listeners, "I feel your pain." DJ, lead growler for Living Sacrifice, doesn't make the same claims, but the sound of his voice seems to reveal that he's feeling somebody's pain. Maybe he empathizes with the multitude of truly death metal bands out there, who may be hot under the collar that "a bunch of Christians" could create music this brutal.



Heaven's Metal caught DJ at a painless moment to discuss the new Living Sacrifice album, his vocal style, upset parents, and the future of death metal.

"The new album has 10 songs," begins DJ. "We recorded it at Trauma Studios up in Pennsylvania, which is Believer's studio. Kurt and Joey produced it and did an excellent job at it. We recorded it all digital on the A-DAT. It's got a really clean, tight, heavy sound. We're real happy with it. It's definitely our best album to date.

"The big question is probably going to be, 'What are the vocals gonna sound like?' I think the vocals are kind of a cross between the last album and the first album. They're a little bit deeper and they're definitely more understandable than the last album. I think the people that are more into the thrash style vocals are gonna get into this vocal style, and I think the people into death will still be able to get into it too."

A LOT OF PEOPLE COMMENTED ON YOUR VOCALS ON *Nonexistent*. WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU MADE VOCALLY THIS TIME?

"Well, I really had a lot of time to practice this particular style. On the last album we only had been getting into the death metal...real heaviness of it for a short time and went straight into the studio. This time I had a full tour before I went

Jason, Bruce, DJ, Lance

into the studio and time to really focus on it and everything. I just wanted to kind of not really have the same kind of style, but have a deeper type of growl vocal, but still understandable. Kinda have more bottom end to it somewhat. Kind of like an old death punk type feel, a hardcore-type approach."

TELL ME ABOUT SOME OF THE SONGS.

"First of all, the name of the album is going to be called *Inhabit*, which is kind of like a follow-up praise song to 'Enthroned,' from our last album, which was basically a praise song set to death metal music. 'Inhabit' is just talking about the Lord inhabiting our praises and being with us. There's a song called 'Sorrow Banished,' which is about the reign of God when Satan is locked away and the New Jerusalem comes down. It's based, of course, on Revelation 21. One of my favorite songs, as far as the lyrics, is a song called 'In The Shadow,' which talks about the shadow of the Lord and talks about His protection. It's based on Psalm 91.

"There is a song that will probably interest a lot of people from the title, which is called 'Breathing Murder.' It's basically about Paul's conversion, from when he was Saul and the fact that he would breathe murderous threats upon the church and stone people and take women

and children to prison, and how he had that spirit of murder and he spoke it against the church. After his great conversion, the people that he murdered with and persecuted the church with attempted to murder him and to stop him from spreading the Gospel. It's about how good overcomes evil and how he was able to conquer that and cease that spirit from consuming him and killing him. He became such a great man of faith.

"There's a song called

'Indwelling,' which is basically about the division in the body of Christ and about how a divided structure cannot remain. A lot of times in the body of Christ we get divided up of whether, 'So and so's a Baptist...well, so and so's a Catholic, so therefore they're not really a Christian.' It is inspired by Billy Graham's ministry and about how when he does a crusade...when he came here to Little Rock, it really blessed me to see all these different denominations come together for the common cause of presenting the Gospel and following through with the Great Commission, which is our duty as Christians. I think a lot of times we don't focus on that and we get kind of lost, (finding ourselves) bitter and bickering about theological disputes a little bit too much; when, considering these are definitely harsh times, we should spend a lot more time focusing on witnessing and getting Christ out there in a positive light. He's been in such a negative light as seen by the world here lately with all the disturbances with different ministers and stuff like that, and bashing the church.

"There's a song called 'Not Beneath,' which is based on Deuteronomy 28:13 and Corinthians 1, 3 and 2:5. It's basically about the fact that we are not supposed to be beneath our circumstances. You know, we are more than conquerors and we're established to the end. We're above, we're not beneath. We're the head, not the tail. Through God's power and



wisdom that's our standing.

"Then there's a song that's kind of a unique subject I've been wanting to write about. It's a song called 'Departure.' It's about child abuse and dealing with it when you're older -- whether it be physical or verbal or sexual abuse on a young child, and how it kind of has an effect on you in your later life. It's kind of written in the scenario of a person that was not saved and then they got saved older and then they're kind of like, 'Oh yeah, I've got to deal with this. How can I deal with it? It's hard to forgive.' It's hard to really walk in that forgiveness, because you've been induced into this dramatic state when you're a young child, and being able to look back through Christ and being able to forgive and being able to depart from that infectious kind of disease of child abuse. People that abuse children, the children usually end up abusing other children the same way. It's talking about being able to forgive and depart and to cease that abuse from ever existing again. That's basically based on Luke 11:4 and John 20. That was one of my favorite ones.

"There's other songs. There's a song called 'Darken.' It's about the liberalism of our school systems and our society as a whole, since prayer has been removed from our society and everything. Rush Limbaugh's new book has a quote in there that says, 'Liberalism poisons the soul.' While we were there in the studio a friend of ours had the audio cassette of Rush's book, so I found that quote and we manipulated it, so it's like Rush will be sampled on the song.

"We're going to have like an 11th song, called 'Unseen.' It's not counted as a song on the CD. It's kind of like a bonus acoustical track with cellos and all kinds of effects. It's gonna be called 'Dead Silence,' and it's basically dealing with the aftermath of a suicide and how tragic it is and what the person leaves behind and the sorrow they leave behind and the love that remains there, even though they're not able to perceive it now that they're gone. They might not have been able to recognize it when they were in the kind of disturbed state that they were in when they committed suicide, but it's still there after they're gone. It doesn't have any lyrics to it. It's just kind of an acoustical piece that our guitar player, Jason, wrote. It's kind of haunting."

DID YOU GUYS HAVE AN EXPERIENCE WITH A CLOSE FRIEND KILLING THEMSELVES?

"Yeah, Jason did. It kinda tripped him out. It was really kind of a weird situation, because it wasn't like the dude wasn't by himself when he did it. He



was all tripped out and in some big argument with his parents and his parents were, like, chasing him down the hall and he ran into his room and shut his door real quick and then killed himself right then; and they were walking in the room when he did it. It freaked 'em out."

HOW ARE THEY DEALING WITH IT NOW?

"I think they're kind of recovering. They're a Christian family and they've received some counseling at their church. Jason went to school with the guy. When he found out about it he kind of flipped out, because he didn't expect it. The dude was kind of like a happy, go-lucky guy at one time."

PEOPLE HAVE MADE LOTS OF COMMENTS ON THE SKULL AND DEATH IMAGERY. THEIR POINT IS, BASICALLY: "Irregardless if there's a scriptural basis for it, these are symbols that society labels as evil. How could you confuse our kids with these symbols and so gradually taint them with a worldly spirit?"

"Well, society labels a lot of things that I don't really agree with. Just because a lot of Christians wear crosses, that doesn't mean that if Madonna wears a cross all the time, that doesn't mean she's a Christian, even though we've labeled that as a Christian symbol. If someone labels something, 'That means death, that means this...' well, that means that to them. It's like Paul said, 'If something means something to one person, it doesn't necessarily mean that it means that to someone else.

"I don't mean to make anyone stumble or anything like that, but with the kind of music that we're playing, we have

to have the kind of look about us. It's not like saying we're compromising or anything like that. I mean, I really think the cover (*Nonexistent*) came out really well. I mean, it's just black and white with some skulls there. It's like a lot of kids have bought our album just because they saw the album cover and knew that it was going to be heavy and they've gotten ministered to by it. There's no real scriptural base for our album cover. We didn't have that in mind when we came up with it. It just looks cool to us and it definitely has been used as a tool. I can appreciate someone kind of disagreeing with that, but I have to look at it as, 'I know these number of kids have been blessed by it, and I have not heard of any Christian kids or whatever getting our albums confused with Deicide's album.'"

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT SOME PARENTS WHO ARE UPSET BECAUSE, KNOWING THAT 85% OF THE PEOPLE WHO BUY YOUR ALBUMS ARE CHRISTIAN KIDS, LIKE 13 YEAR OLD KIDS WHO SEE IT AND THEY GET A T-SHIRT AND START DRAWING AND PUTTING SKULLS ALL OVER THEIR GARMENTS AND NOTEBOOKS OR WHATEVER... AND THAT DISTURBS THE PARENT AND THEY'RE THINKING, "Wait a minute! Where do we draw the line here?" WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO THEM?

"Well, I'd say that they definitely have to kind of lay down the line for their kid and tell them what they expect and what they don't appreciate or accept. I can definitely respect someone not wanting to have their kids to have skulls on their notebooks all the time and stuff like that.

"I don't really know, you know,

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theologically, if it's... To me, it's just a skull. I don't really associate a skull with something as necessarily meaning death, like a physical death. I think of it as more of a spiritual death and the significance of it there. I guess you could say I could justify it, but I can agree with a parent not wanting it. But, if it's up to the kid and they are into it, the parents should kind of be in touch with the kid more and tell the kids that's really not what they want them to do. It's kind of up to the parent to be the kind of responsible adult that they should be being a parent."

I APPRECIATE YOU ANSWERING THAT. I'VE FIELDDED SOME QUESTIONS FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN KIND OF UPSET ABOUT ALL THE ADS IN THIS MAGAZINE THAT HAVE SKULLS AND STUFF. I UNDERSTAND THEIR POINT, BUT I STILL FEEL LIKE A SKULL IS A HUMAN HEAD. IT'S UNDERNEATH OUR SKIN. IT'S LIKE A MEDICAL THING IN ONE ASPECT.

"We all have one. When we were on tour a parent was really concerned and she asked me about it. I was like, 'What's necessarily wrong with it?' I was like, 'God created it. Just because it doesn't have any skin...it's still our bone and God created it, and I think that's kind of a cool thing.' She couldn't really answer me after I started asking her a few questions. I really didn't know how to answer her questions in the first place, as far as where we should draw the line and everything like that. I was like, 'Well, it's up to you.' I don't know. I can definitely understand their concern."

I THINK SOME PEOPLE ARGUE IT FROM A VIEWPOINT OF, "Well, I have discernment and God tells me that it's wrong." THAT'S LIKE, HOW CAN YOU ARGUE WITH THAT? ON TO A DIFFERENT QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE FUTURE OF DEATH METAL?

"Well, the future of death metal I think is progressing. I hate to constantly refer to the secular market, but if you really want to know overall what the death metal scene is doing -- in the Christian market and the secular market -- you look at the big labels. Sepultura's got a big deal (Epic) and they've got a lot of videos and a lot of promotion and they're doing major tours. Even way satanic bands, such as Morbid Angel (Giant), have deals with major record companies now and have videos out and are doing these tours and becoming more and more popular. There's a lot of death metal bands out there that

aren't very talented and that are just garbage, but the bands that really concentrate on their style and add something unique to it, they'll definitely get more attention, because there is a move to just heavier, more extreme music. In the past couple of years, bands such as Pantera, Biohazard, Corrosion of Conformity, and these bands that have been around for a while are just now getting attention, because everyone wants something heavier and heavier. There's still going to be an underclass of people that want something heavier than Pantera, and they're going to be looking to death metal, because Metallica is not the heaviest thing around anymore. It's kind of like how Metallica was in the mid-80's. That's how I see death metal right now. I don't know if it's gonna get that huge, you know, it's kinda doubtful; but you never know."

"I haven't heard of any Christian kids getting our albums confused with Deicide."

WHAT HAS GOD TAUGHT YOU GUYS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS?

"I think one thing God has taught us is to be faithful with what He's given us; and patience and to be grateful and humble about our situation, because we've seen a lot of changes. A lot of Christian bands that I personally grew up with are no longer around or not the same bands. God has shown me, 'You have to take being in a Christian band as a responsibility. You have to be patient. You can't want to do everything all at once.' I mean, I'd love to go on tour as much as possible and play shows and everything like that all the time, and record and everything, but it's kind of like the Lord's taught us to wait on His plans to do things all in His season and to not get out of line with His will and try to rush things and step outside of His will -- (but) really being patient. With the demise of other bands around that I've seen, it's like, 'Lord, I don't want anything to obstruct Your will and I don't want anything to come between Your desire for our band. Basically, that's what He's taught us.'"

WHAT'S UP WITH THIS PHOTO OF YOU, YOUR DAD, AND BILL CLINTON?

(laughs) "Well, being from Little Rock, my dad knows Slick Willie. After we got off tour this summer my dad was going up there (D.C.) on some business and he asked me if I wanted to go and I said, 'Sure.' While we were up there we got to go hang out with Bill. They had the White House photo person take pictures of us and all this. I thought it was kind of funny. My dad has pretty much known Bill Clinton for a long time. As a businessman here in Little Rock, a lot of his friends are in Washington now."

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

"One thing is it looks like we're going to be playing Cornerstone again this year. That was like a big prayer answered there. I think what we're going to do this summer is do some shows prior to going to Cornerstone. Our drummer, Lance, got married a couple weeks ago. He has a wife now. I think our guitar player, Jason, is getting married in June. So, we're going to have two married men in the band. It's going to be really weird. Right now, with them trying to get their families established, we can't do a two-month tour this summer. I think what we're gonna do is like a week or two weeks worth of dates before or after Cornerstone. As far as after that, kind of do weekend shows and everything and see how this album does. We're really excited about it. If there ever came an opportunity to go to Europe, that'd be great. It's kind of, like, up to the Lord now. I'm just really anxious to get this album out. I know everyone is really biased talking about their band, but the production on this album is so much better than our last album. I can't wait for it to get out and see what happens after it's been out."

PARTING COMMENTS?

"It's a trip to be on the cover! To still have another album coming out is really a blessing. If anyone wants to write us, our P.O. Box is 45892, Little Rock, Arkansas 72214. This album is going to have distribution through Relativity and R.E.X., so it will be available in all the stores and everything. I'm excited, because we won't have people writing us all the time, going, 'I never can find your album.' That's real exciting."

"One last thing: despite the fact that my picture's in there with Bill Clinton, I'm still a Christian, American, heterosexual, pro-life, right-wing conservative. I've always been. No doubt about it! (laughs) Don't anyone write me and wonder why I'm standing next to Bill Clinton -- especially those that really don't like him! I'm still a Rush Limbaugh fan."

HM

ROSE: GETTING BACK TO WHERE HE BELONGS

The enthusiasm that Randy Rose bursts out with while describing his third and latest album, *Crazy Little World*, will probably be matched only by the surprise of his fans when they hear the new release. Gone is the hardcore assault of the first two albums; instead, the new album glides through a musical path of '60's influenced stripped-down power pop where melody is king and you can always hear the vocals.

As Rose comments, the new musical direction reflects two sets of influences on his life. The first is that this style of music is his favorite. While at 22, Rose has no first-hand knowledge of 60's music at the time of his inception, he grew up on it courtesy of his older brothers' record collections. "I was listening to groups like The Beatles, Badfinger, and the Zombies from day one," as he puts it. The second reason flies squarely in the face of any of Rose's fans who will raise the "commercial sellout" cry when they hear the new album. As Rose puts it, some of those very fans are the reason he switched musical gears.

"There are a lot of reasons why I changed, but one of the biggest ones had to do with the Christian concert scene," he comments. "We played a decent amount of shows in the past couple of years, but a lot of concert promoters were scared by the whole moshing scene. And, to be honest, I didn't like it either. I'd play a song off of *Healing* (Rose's second album) and I'd have a bunch of people in the audience yelling, 'Faster, faster! We want to mosh!' I'd be thinking, 'Don't you care what I'm talking about?' Obviously, they didn't. I'd try to talk and share in between songs, and

"This new album is much more me than anything else I've ever done."

they'd be screaming at me to shut up and play. That got old. I really made an effort on the first two albums to put a lot into the music and the words, but all they wanted

was fast grindcore. I want the people to appreciate the music and the words -- and, if they don't care about the words, there's no need for Christian music anymore."

So, is he worried about the sellout charge? "A little. But, if I had wanted to go strictly for success, I would have gone for more commercial metal. The last album did pretty well, and 'Demons' was a successful song on the radio charts. So, I'm actually taking a big chance by doing this. I expect that a lot of people won't understand the change, and I'm sure that I'll be losing some old Rose fans, but what I'm gaining is a message and a style that I'd rather do, and, to be honest, I would have rather been doing a long time ago.

"It's not that I don't love heavy music. But, ultimately you have to be pleasing God with what you're doing on stage. You have to be happy with the music that you're doing, and you have to be doing it for the right reasons." He adds, "Sure, I could go the complete grindcore/speed metal route, but I've had such a bad experience with that. It's not my scene. I'm not a rough person. Someone might listen to the old stuff and think that I'm a real madman who ought to love this slamming stuff. I don't. I'm a mellow, unabrasive person, and this new album is much more me than anything else I've ever done."

What constitutes Rose's presentation of himself on *Crazy Little World* falls musically into the category of that which, while sounding fresh and on the current edge of things to music fans whose introduction to power pop has come from the likes of Crowded House, will bring a nostalgic glow to people who grew up on the sounds of the Beatles and their kin. Rose describes the approach in this manner: "This isn't a 90's version of the 60's; it's much more authentic. I completely stripped my studio down and stripped everything down to bare bones musically. We did it like it would have been done if we had recorded the album in 1965. It's not like anything else you've heard in Christian music." He adds with a laugh, "It forces you into a flashback!"

The album is extremely up-front lyrically. While Rose's previous two albums could hardly be considered obscure



in their lyrical slant, many times adopting a blatant anti-Satan pose, *Crazy Little World* features a more positive, evangelistic approach. As he puts it, "This album adopts a very straightforward, John 3:16 style. The reason for that is -- and I don't want to be putting down other Christian bands -- so many people are adopting this attitude where they think it's cool to be mystic and controversial in Christian music, doing things like throwing condoms off stage and talking about how God would prefer safe sex -- garbage like that. I don't want to baffle people. I want to provide answers to people. I wanted to make an album that sounded like a Christian album ought to be -- and that's Christian! This album talks about being saved, like on the song 'New Day.' It's a completely different approach from the first two albums. Those were radical, full-on attacks against satanism. On this album, the lyrics are just as radical, because they're overflowing with the truth about Christ."

So, what does this recently married son of an evangelist mother see down the road? Rose looks forward to touring the new album, seeing *Crazy Little World* as very much being a part of the concept from which Christian rock first sprang forth in the late 60's -- that being music as an evangelistic tool. As he says, "This album is my version of being a traveling evangelist."

HM

The Vision Of 20/20 Blind

When a new band arrives on the scene (meaning when a band gets signed and gets their first album released), it is a common misconception to think that they formed overnight and just went into the studio to record an album. It is also common to see a "new band" and classify them as young, naive individuals with only a few cliches to offer the public. This is far from true for Houston's 20/20 Blind. Although young and inexperienced in the professional music business, this band has had more than their fair share of real-life experiences in their three and a half year history as a band.

One of the latest realizations for the band is that getting signed and recording an album isn't all it's cracked up to be. "It's easy to think, 'Wow! Being signed is like the pinnacle,'" admits drummer Chris Laurents, before he punctuates his sentence with a "Not! It's totally like ground-zero."

"I had my hopes up so high," shares bassist Shon Alkire, "and once I got there I realized it was just a step. It's just a stepping stone to get to the next point. You've gotta keep working."

Hard work is not a new concept to Shon, who carries the longest effects from a car accident three of the band members were in last fall. "It's really affected me a lot," says Shon, "not only physically, but mentally. I haven't been able to work for the last five months. I've got a bunch of scars on my arm. They had to put a metal rod in my leg. I'll have future surgery to get the rod out."

"The other thing is I've been studying a lot on Christian suffering. You know, 'Why is it that Christians go through hard times?' One reason is for discipline and another reason is for a blessing. God can totally turn a situation around. He'll use a situation to bless you. We're going to be getting a pretty sizable settlement and it's probably going to allow me personally and the band to do music full time. It's ended up being a blessing, even though I had to go through some pain." Pain indeed: Shon was flown via helicopter ("Life Flight") from the accident to the hospital, and was in Intensive Care for a couple of days.

Shon wasn't the only one affected by the hit and run accident (The driver was caught: a witness to the accident followed the drunk driver, coaxed him into the car



L to R: Shon, Doug, Wallace, Chris, Michael (Photo by Arthur Garcia)

for a trip to the hospital, and returned him to the scene of the accident.). Vocalist Wallace Chase got a bunch of glass in his eyes, "which really put our name in perspective," chuckles guitarist Michael McNeely in a low-key manner that implies that this has only become a joke since the danger of Wallace losing his sight has passed. Chris was pretty banged up as well, but even the other members were impacted greatly.

"I was really angry at first," says Wallace. "We felt like we were right at the point where God was opening doors... We were able to work conveniently and playing consistently. We had just gotten the record deal and were gonna begin recording. My initial response was just anger, because it did mess up Shon's world pretty bad and mine for a while. It put a big delay in our recording and kind of put a sour attitude on everything. But, after the physical healing had taken over, there were a lot of good things that I saw come out of it. I know that sounds cliché, but it's true. God's blessed me and taught me patience, because that's something I had a really hard time with."

"Shon's still recovering. I know every day he can't go anywhere or get in anything without using his crutches. I know it's getting pretty taxing on him emotionally, but God's teaching him patience as well."

"It's also given us an opportunity

to meet the guy, the drunk, who hit us; because of the courtroom. We were able to talk to him and his lawyer. When we met him, he was totally sorry. He just broke down and cried in the middle of the courtroom, and we all gave him hugs and told him that we loved him and that he was forgiven. It was really just an opportunity for me to witness. I was able to show Christ's love through me, and I wanted to."

"Overall, I think it's taken us on a roller coaster ride of emotions and allowed us to realize that all of those emotions are okay. To be angry is okay, as long as you act in a proper and Christian manner...and also to learn how to forgive and be patient, and to realize that nothing really matters. In this life there isn't really anything that matters too much. My dad always used to tell me, 'Don't cry over spilled milk; and everything is just spilled milk.' I think that's true. I was able to learn that through this accident, even though this is the biggest, craziest thing that's ever happened to me; it rocked my world and kind of screwed me up financially for a long time, but it's really allowed me just to sit back and realize, 'It's just spilled milk, and it doesn't really have that big of an impact when you think about how short life is.' I guess it's also taught me how to enjoy life regardless of what kind of circumstances I'm in."

"I felt like God just about pulled the rug out from underneath us," says

Michael, "but not in a bad way. If He had decided to call Shon home, I would be rejoicing for Shon; but what I realized is, 'Man, life is really short!' It's true; it's just a vapor. It's too short to waste pursuing a bunch of meaningless pursuits. It really makes you reflect on how quickly life goes by. It really drew us together, too. A situation like that will really test your prayer life."

"It put a cramp on time," adds Chris. "It was so stressful trying to get through pre-production with Shon laying on his back on the floor trying to play. I was playing probably 8 to 10 weeks after the accident."

The surrounding community got involved after the accident, with a local band (Witness) holding a fund-raiser concert and a bookstore (Theophilus) putting on a concert with Guardian unplugged, and manufacturing and selling cassette singles of a 20/20 Blind song -- all of which raised funds to help with medical bills incurred. "Shon racked up some pretty heavy bills and didn't have any insurance to speak of," says Chris. "It was just incredible how people wanted to help without even really being coaxed."

Having gone through these things as a band, it would be hard to label these guys as a bunch of naive, wet-behind-the-ears novices. They've "experienced life," if you will. Another trial the band went through early last fall was a time when their lead vocalist wasn't in the band anymore. "I was dealing with a problem that I'd had since the mid-80's," says Wallace. "I was actually kicked out of the band."

"It was so frustrating being out of the band, because that's where my heart was. I realized that I had some problems that I did need to deal with and now I thank God for that opportunity to go off and be away from the band and just totally deal with the problem and get things fixed in my own world before I was able to get out and represent the band the best way I could. It was frustrating, but, at the same time, it was exactly what I needed and exactly what God wanted for me."

"I'm much more in control now. When I went away I was in a hospital for a while, and they did some tests and I was diagnosed as being clinically manic depressant. They found a medication that I take every day, twice a day, that I think really keeps all my chemicals in balance in my brain. It gives me a better check on reality. I'm a lot more stable. I have a lot more control of different emotions. They're not so out of line as they used to be. The best thing that happened was just realizing that I had some problems and that

it was okay to be a little different. Regardless of what kind of problem I do have, there's always a solution to work things out. More than anything, it made me feel really normal and it's made my actions a lot more consistent."

As with the accident that came a couple months later, this "trial" impacted the band's emotions. "It was something I hadn't shared with them, so when I did express that I had some problems that I needed dealing with, they were hurt; but they were also compassionate and they prayed for me. They supported me in whatever way they could, whether it was just phone calls or a letter. I think overall the whole situation was treated with a genuine concern and it has helped this band mature. It's raised the maturity level of the band a whole lot. It's brought us to a point spiritually also, I think, where we can handle just about anything that we're ever gonna face together."

20/20 Blind has been through the ringers of life, but what do they sound like? Michael does his best to describe, "From my viewpoint, it sounds like we have tidbits of a bunch of different bands. I can hear just a little Queensryche, I can hear a little bit of Extreme, I can hear a little Dokken, a little Boston, a little Van Halen mixed in with maybe a little bit of Scorpions, as well as some of the Seattle sound. Basically, everyone's got a real wide musical background and it kind of filters its way into the music."

"I don't want our songs to be just a digital imprint on tape that people listen to."

"As a singer," adds Wallace, "I just want to be able to pull out from the lyrics emotionally what is there and try to let people feel it as well as hear it. I don't want our songs to be just a digital imprint on tape that people listen to. I want it to be an experience on tape that people get to relate to and apply to their life in one way or another."

Lyrical, the band is about as diverse as their sound. "We've got a

couple songs about love," continues Wallace, "because I feel like the most simplistic, basic teaching I find in the Bible that Christ taught is love. God is love, and we should be able to express that particular emotion or decision to people; because, if we're showing 'em love, we're showing 'em Christ. There's a couple songs about hope, because hope is my favorite word. I think there's so much to offer in that one word. It talks about the future, the past, and our relationship to Christ. There's so many different aspects in my life that relate back to that word -- hope."

"There's a song called 'Do I?' which talks about the frustration of the decision whether or not to fall to temptation with sex. It's kind of a down-to-earth song relating to how to deal with that particular temptation. There's a song about God's goodness, and how He's always so close. I hope people appreciate the lyrical variety."

One of the first (and sometimes fatal) pitfalls and stereotypes of a "new band" is the gargantuan rock and roll ego. How does 20/20 Blind handle this temptation? "When I show up at work at 8 o'clock in the morning," says Chris, "I know I'm going to pick up trash in a park and clean a toilet or two. It's not real hard to remember day by day who you are. Life in itself is humbling. When we fail God and go back and ask for forgiveness -- a lot of times for the same thing -- that's humbling in itself."

"It hasn't been much of a problem for the band. We don't see each other as much anymore outside of practice, so when we are together we try as best we can to keep things like that in check. If it ever does seem like a problem like that arises, we just have to call a meeting and say, 'Hey, let's remember why we're here!'"

"I'm not gonna say that's never happened. It's easy to let your guard down and get excited, 'Wow! We just played in front of a couple thousand (opening a show with White Heart and Whitecross).' That was exciting. That's what all of us have always wanted to do and I guess it's easy to get your mind off what reality is. Pride can well up in you if you let it, but we just try to keep that in check. I've never met anybody with a level of humility like Shon has. He'll thrash you in a second if pride rears its head."

20/20 Blind, the new band with the old man's amount of human experience and wisdom, is out of the starting gate and now they're out to systematically tear down those walls of stereotype that surround new bands.

HM

FOCUSED -- ONLY BOWING TO ONE

By David Jenison

If you've heard the salvation 'n' saliva spittin' intro to the new Focused album, you know this isn't a band of wimpy "I'll let my testimony do all the talking" Christians. This is hardcore music and hardcore living. Heaven's Metal writer David Jenison got in the face of lead vocalist Tim Mann to have him describe this band that is packing out shows in Southern California like The Crucified were doing two years ago -- Focused.

IF YOU MADE A NEW FRIEND AND INVITED HIM TO ONE OF YOUR SHOWS, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL HIM TO EXPECT?

"Fun, sweat, a lot of people running around jumping on each other," says Tim. "Our music is like mood swing hardcore. It's not fast like Crucified. It's not thrash. It has a lot of feel to it. It's aggressive, but at the same time, it really swings."

WHAT'S THE WILDEST SHOW YOU'VE HAD SO FAR?

"It was just recently at the Rock for Life show. We opened up the show with some slower songs, but after the third song we really kicked in. Everyone just went crazy. The show's promoter said people could slam in the corner, but they couldn't move, float, and nobody could jump around. He was really cool, because everybody was on stage singing along, jumping and going crazy."

WHAT'S THE FREAKIEST SHOW?

"We did a day time show at a church. My back was turned to the crowd and, right when the song ended and the music was feeding back, I turned around and came eye to eye with this guy, and he called me 'a f(bleep)-ing hypocrite.' The whole crowd hushed. I basically said, 'If I've done anything wrong to you, I ask you for my forgiveness.' He apologized. After the show, his friends came up and said he did it because I stage dove at a recent show and landed on him, and when I got up I apparently called him a few choice words. He probably saw my mouth moving, because, when I'm not singing, I'm often talking to God, and he probably thought I was saying something to him. I told the guy, 'I really don't think I said those things, but if I did, please forgive me.' I shocked him -- his mouth just dropped."

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU GUYS ACTUALLY DO A COVER OF "NO SPIRITUAL SURRENDER" AT



Photo by Igbe

YOUR LIVE SHOW?

"We used to do the song. It's by Inside/Out -- Zach de la Rocha's band prior to Rage Against The Machine. Brandon (Tooth & Nail Records) wants us to get the rights to the song, so we could record it. We play a lot of secular shows, and those kids think it's cool and they jump around and sing along. I think it would be cool, because they're broken up. We did that song for so long, when we came off tour, we decided to stop doing it. We might start doing it again."

TELL ME ABOUT THIS SIDE PROJECT YOU'RE DOING.

"I'm in a band made up of members of Focused, Unashamed, The Blamed, Outnumbered, and The Crucified -- all bands that end in 'ed.' Bellew (Crucified) is really into making up trippy names, so he calls the new band Ed's Night Out. (Hmm, this could add new meaning to our "Letters To Ed" section -- Ed.) We all have other priorities, but we still practice together. The band has Chris (Unashamed) on drums, Ryan (Outnumbered) on guitar, (Jeff) Bellew (Crucified) on guitar, Eric (The Blamed) on bass, and I'm on vocals. It has a Bad Religion, Pennywise, Offspring kind of vibe."

DO YOU SEE FOCUSED AS A MINISTRY-ORIENTED BAND?

"Definitely. Our first concert was a secular straight-edge show, and we have been doing them ever since. As the

years have gone by, God has shown me more ways to stand up and be bold for Him. In a lot of ways, I got timid because I'm afraid I'm going to turn people off. I'm finding out that these kids need to be offended. The kids in this scene are pro-homosexual rights, vegetarians to the point of religion, very politically correct, and they're outspoken in it. They come to our shows and they hate God so much, but like us. If it's God's will for us to play these shows, He'll make it possible; but we are going to tell people that we are a ministry-oriented band and are going to speak out on our views. If we get outlawed from shows, then we do, knowing we did our best."

YOU TALK A LOT ABOUT PLAYING STRAIGHT EDGE SHOWS. EXPLAIN WHAT STRAIGHT EDGE IS IN CASE SOME READERS HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT BEFORE.

"Straight-edge began in the early 80's with the icon Ian McKaye. He was a punk rocker who didn't want to party, so he fought against it. Back then, punk shows were at bars, and anyone under age got a big black X on his hand. When these kids decided to fight against the drugs, alcohol, and premarital sex, the X on the hand was carried on as a means of saying they don't do those things. Now it's gotten into being a vegetarian, abortion rights, women's rights, and being very politically correct. It doesn't go for everybody -- there



PRECIOUS DEATH

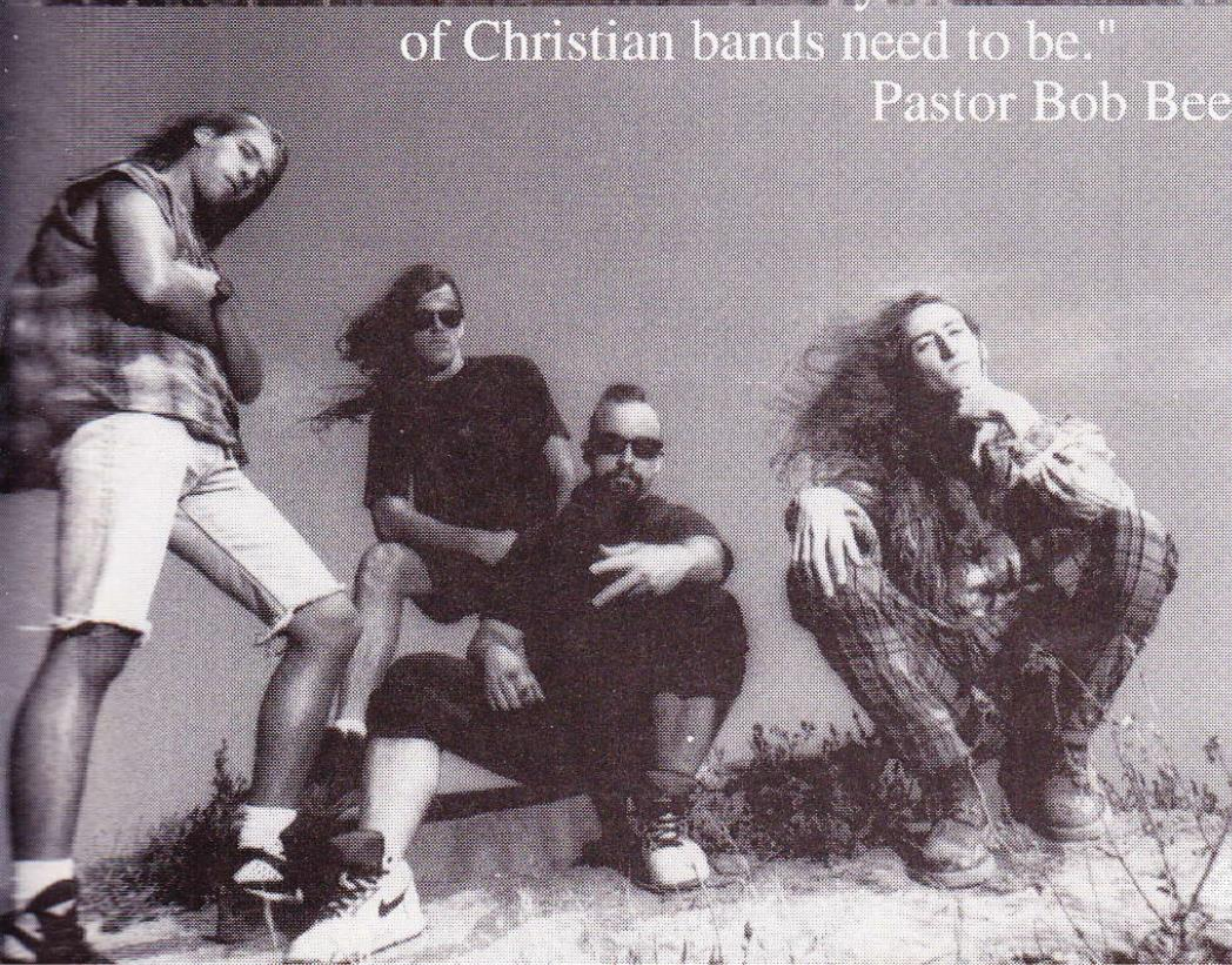
"I do believe that God is calling an Army today. As I watch bands form today, I see a lot of people who don't want to go that same route, (bands) who really want to make a difference for the Lord and they want to do it in a way that's going to affect people. Let me illustrate by bringing up one band in particular...Precious Death. When these guys started their whole desire was to serve the Lord, so they waited...trying to get ready for whenever God was going to move with them. They were just faithful...I think they've been an example of where a lot of Christian bands need to be."

Pastor Bob Beeman, Heaven's Metal

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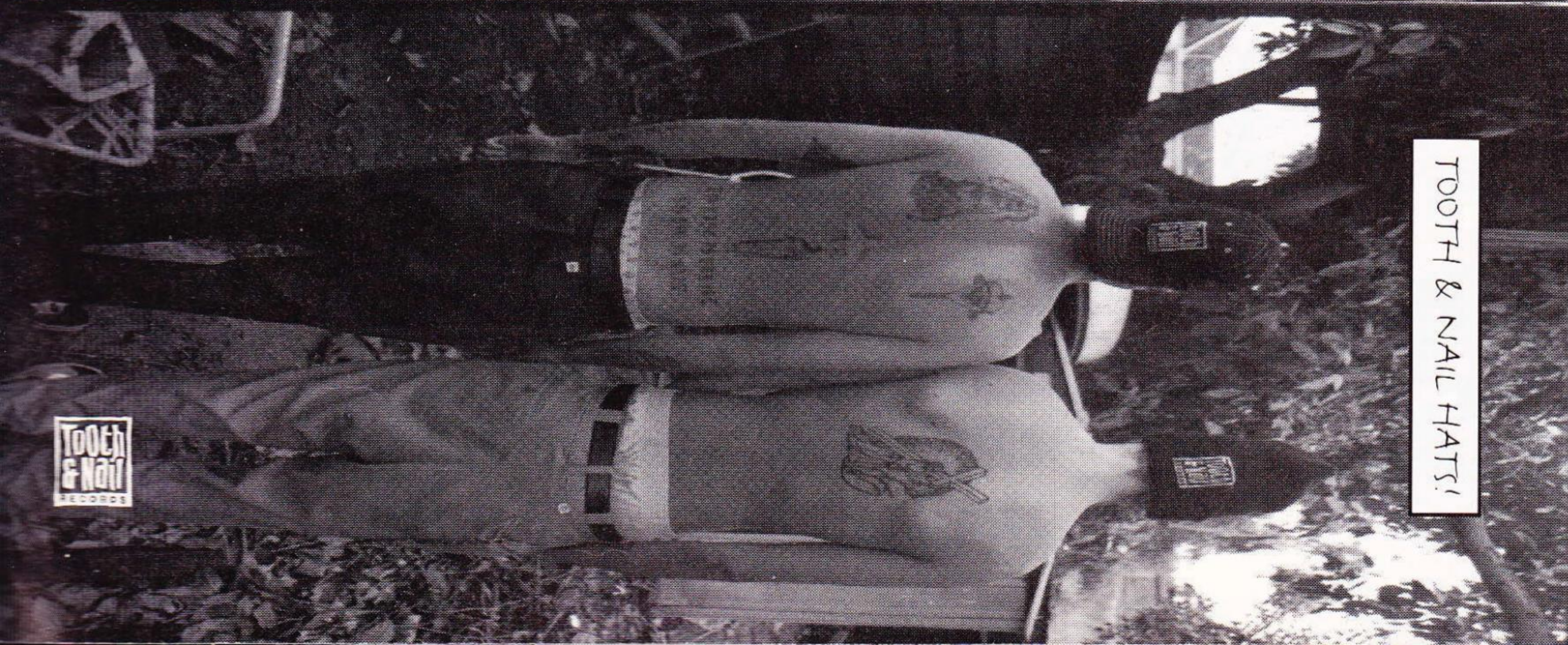
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Sometime Sunday

By Andrew Crump

CAST- ING the FIRST



Stone

Grunge. To a Southern boy from Alabama, it's the number one reason to have a loud car stereo system. To others, it's an idiotic six letter word invented by an ignorant media misfit in order to describe the sound of a flannel generation. But, to Sometime Sunday, who refers to its music as "Lurch Rock," it's a way to express what otherwise might be suppressed.

It almost seems ironic that such a rebellious form of music has become so popular -- minority feelings being accepted by a majority. But, are these feelings of anger, loneliness and despair being felt by only a small number of people? Could there actually be Christians that feel this way? Mikee, vocalist for Sometime Sunday, thinks so and wants to use the band's music to deal with the seasons of life that Christians and non-

Christians experience.

"There are probably as many screwed-up people in the Christian church as there are on the outside," commented Mikee. "I know for a fact that I'm a really screwed-up puppy, pushing out emotions that are maybe on the darker side of things, but in that there's hope. Some people expect bands to go up on stage and be the candy-coated kind and to look nice because they're Christians. But, with us, it's just not that way. There's a lot of Christians that hurt -- emotions that are never dealt with. We want to change that. We want to deal with those emotions."

With the soon-to-be-released debut album, *Stone* (Tooth And Nail Records), things are moving quickly for a band that has only been together for a year and a half. "We're very -- for lack of a

better term -- we're very blessed," explained Mikee on Sometime Sunday's recent success. But things have not always seemed like a blessing for Mikee, especially a few months before last year's Cornerstone Festival. After the release of Sometime Sunday's powerful 7-song demo, *Pain*, in 1993, the band paved its way to play at the New Band Showcase stage at Cornerstone, where Brandon Ebel of Tooth And Nail Records became interested in the band. Almost three months prior to the festival, Mikee nearly lost his life in a head-on car accident. As a result of the emotional and physical strains caused by the accident, Mikee lost his job, and his wife left him. Mikee admitted that before the accident and even before Sometime Sunday, his life was not what it appeared to be. On the surface he tried to portray

himself as a growing Christian, but there was not enough depth in his relationship with God to sustain his deceiving appearance. The accident brought him back to reality.

"All these things happened, and I was probably at the lowest point that my life has ever been in. During that time, God just said, 'Hey, you need to wake up and understand that I'm in control of your life. Just let me have it, and I will do what I need to do with it. You just kick back and be a vessel -- somebody that I can use. That's all I ask of you.' And when I went to Cornerstone, it was probably one of the biggest thrills of my life. I started crying on stage, because it was amazing that God in two months had gotten me back up on my feet." God restored Mikee's relationship with his wife and provided him with a job in March of this year.

Through all of this, Mikee has learned what it means to be real again. This newly found knowledge of life has penetrated its positive effects into Sometime Sunday's lyrics as well. "I decided that in my lyrics and whatever I wrote from that point on, I was going to be very honest and very truthful with my feelings and let everybody know exactly what's going on with me."

WANTED Honest, hard working drummer. Send your demo to 7610 North Brandon, Portland OR 97217.

He considers *Stone* to be more honest and personal than *Pain*. It confronts subjects such as the almost taboo topic of lust, the common yet depressing feelings of loneliness and the life damaging scars of verbal abuse -- something Mikee experienced firsthand from his father. But the real-to-life, honest and

personal expressions do not stop with the lyrics. The music has been transformed also.

"When we did *Pain*, we doubled the guitars, tripled the guitars, did some double tracking on my vocals, had lots of reverb and lots of effects to make it sound real big. We used all the tricks we could to make it sound huge. *Stone* is just totally opposite. We used hardly any effects whatsoever. We tried to make it sound as raw as we possibly could without going overboard to make it sound like garbage. We do feel that if you were to listen to the tape and come and see us live, you'll hear the exact same thing. We were just kind of sick of the over produced stuff that, when you go see a band live, you're going, 'What happened? I thought these guys were great on tape. What's the deal now?'"

"This new album is very raw. The attitude about the whole thing is that I want people to put on their headphones and sit in a dark room

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and it sound like the band was playing right there -- two inches from their face. There's still a few mistakes that we left on there, so that people can hear them. I kind of like when, once in a while, you hear maybe a little mess up. It just seems to be more real that way."

Sometime Sunday is not a paid advertisement where it can be yours for \$19.95. Nor is it a 1-900 number that will

predict your future and satisfy all your needs. It's a band that is willing to open up itself in an honest way. What you see is what you get. As of now, all you will see from the band is Mikee on vocals, Zip on bass, and Kevin on guitar. All interested, honest and hard working drummers wanting an opportunity to play with Sometime Sunday, send your demo to: 7610 North Brandon, Portland, OR 97217. **HM**

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PFR - Dogs Having Their Day

By Dan MacIntosh

When I heard about the title of PFR's new release, *Goldie's Last Day*, I was filled with a strange excitement. Wow, I thought, a Christian concept album -- like The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* or The Who's *Tommy* or even *Shotgun Angel* by Daniel Amos. I just love a good concept album! And with a title like *Goldie's Last Day*, I just knew I couldn't go wrong.

"Goldie was our bass player's (Patrick Andrew) dog," explains guitarist Joel Hanson, "and it was their family dog of 14 years, but got doggy cancer and just got real sick and so they put her to sleep." As it turns out, this is the only song about Goldie on the album, and she was not a deaf, dumb and blind pup that sure played a mean pinball. Much to my dismay, this is not a concept album. It's not about Goldie -- or even about dogs for that matter.

It is about great melodies, fine singing, and a little hard rock here and there to spice things up. It is also about love. Love for brothers and sisters. Love for husbands and wives. And, of course, love for one's beloved pooch.

"Pat and I grew up in a small town of about 14,000 people," continues Hanson, "so we just kind of wrote this song -- jokingly -- about the passing of his dog, and about how, in a small town, when something like that happens everybody knows that your dog died. It's the talk of the town for a day or two. Pat happened to get some pictures of the dog on her last day, and they were taken in his blue Volare station wagon. That's really where the whole idea came from."

This little bit of pet appreciation went from being private grief to public knowledge in a hurry. "And then we thought, 'Well, there's a great title.' Then we thought, 'Yeah, we should do that for the record' -- of course, just joking. And Sparrow (a label named after a member of the foul family) ended up saying, 'Yeah, that's great.'"

Although the band is pictured on the cover of its new album with clean cut short hair, casual knit shirts and shorts -- like they're out of an ad for young men's clothes in the old Sears catalog -- this doesn't mean these kids don't know how to rock. And to prove this, the album opens with "Walk Away From Love," which sounds like an out-take from a King's X

album. Indeed, the kids are alright.

"It definitely has some of that influence," responds spokesman and guitarist Hanson. "There's also probably a little Hendrix influence. That's all stuff that we've listened to. We're big King's X fans. I think most guitar bands would be. I don't know if that is what we were going for, but that is what we came up with."

One wonders why the band doesn't include more out-and-out rockers like "Walk Away From Love" on its albums.

"I can see why someone might think that," says Hanson. "Like, 'Geez, these guys can let loose; why don't they?' But I think that Mark (Nash), the drummer, Pat and I listen to so many different styles of music, that usually it's reflective in our own albums. They tend to be a bit of a mix. We don't stick with just one genre. I think pop and rock are the categories we get put in most of the time. I hear alternative now and then, but it's mostly a mix of those elements. Sparrow has never put the reins on us as to how hard we can rock."

When Hanson says pop, he's talking about pop from a previous era. Pop today means Whitney Houston and such, whereas pop in the PFR sense refers to The Beatles of yesterday, and Crowded House and Squeeze from today.

PFR can also point to modern mainstream Christian artists as having an effect on their sound. "The first Christian music I ever heard was Petra, and the second thing I ever heard was Phil Keaggy. And, of course, I fell in love with Keaggy's playing -- immediately. The first album I heard of his was *Town To Town*, and from there I just heard a lot of other stuff. He tries to concentrate on melody a lot, and so do we, so I think that's where our pop

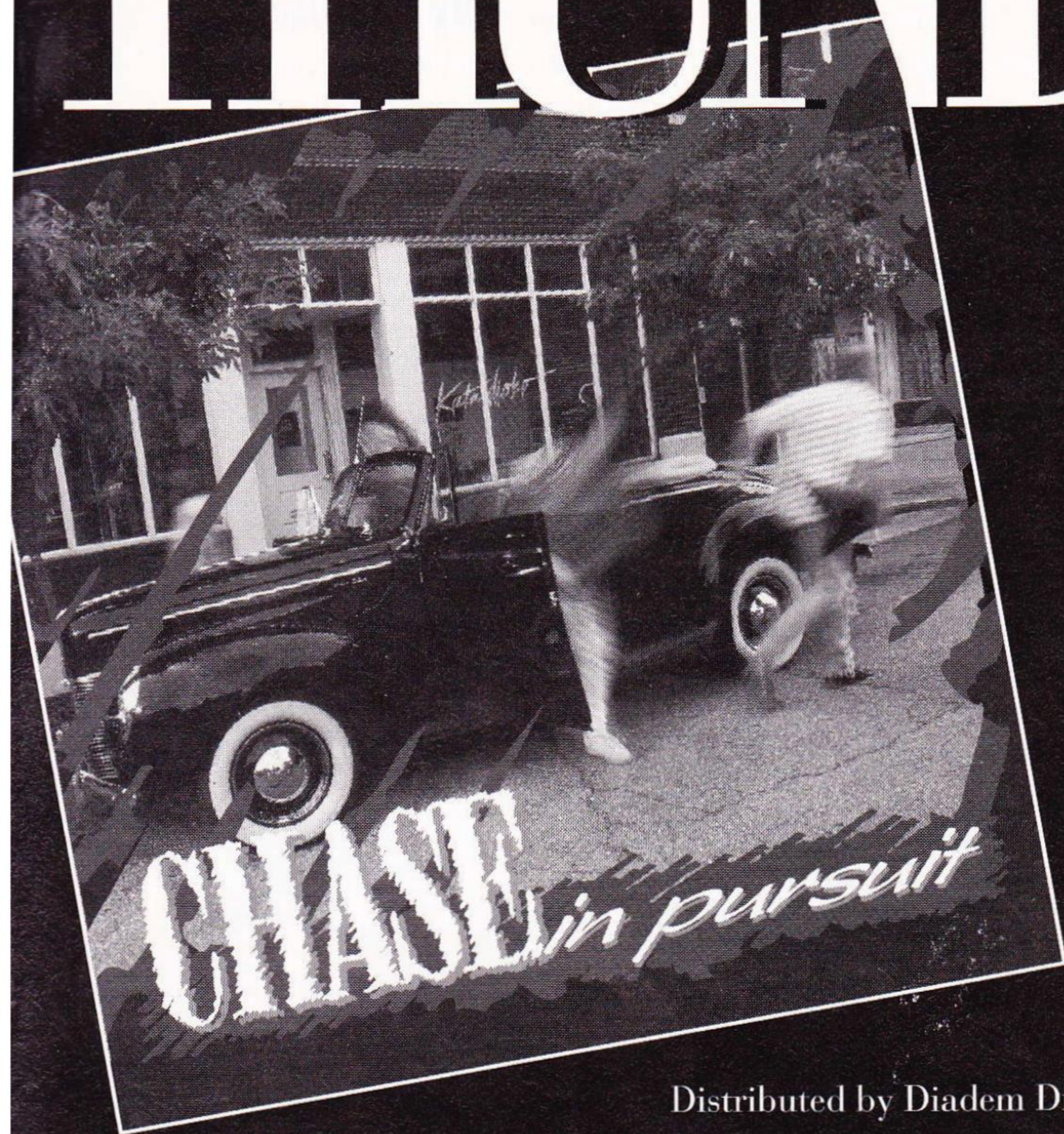


influence is."

And while PFR can point to those in the Christian music industry that have influenced their sound, they haven't let the industry change their life style. They have resisted the temptation to flock to Nashville, choosing instead to stay in rural Minnesota, and outside of the Music City's limelight. "I come home and I have my own life," sighs Hanson. "I'm not involved in the schmoozing that goes on. You know, 'Hey, going over to so and so's to write...' I come home, and I hang out with my wife and our dog (still alive, no biographical songs planned). We live in a camp, so it's just a different environment. I think it keeps me in check. It keeps me level headed and having a correct perspective -- all things, I think, that could get easily washed away in this industry, which I haven't. There just isn't enough there. It's all so fleeting."

He's also away from the bright lights and the big city. "It's a year round Christian camp," he continues. "My wife

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Cathy works here full time as an outdoor education coordinator. She is a school teacher, by education, and she has now put some of that to use by putting together a program of outdoor education."

This outdoor educator has also taught the previously un-outdoorsy Hanson a thing or two about enjoying nature. "We (now) mountain bike together, we cross country ski, we run a little bit together. We've got a corral at our disposal, the lake front, a lot of great hiking trails for either hiking or walking, so it's a really nice place to come home to. I can get away from all of the business."

Unlike a lot of bands which get lumped into the alternative category in Christian music, there is a real sense of hope, and almost a total lack of cynicism in PFR's music. Hanson sees similar ideas which came out on the group's self-titled debut, and continues to come out on its newest disc. "There's still a theme of true love, and what that's all about. There's a little more of an element of humor, hopefully. And, thirdly, we said, 'Hey, let's not be afraid to ask the questions and maybe not be able to answer them.' Because that's kind of the way life is.

There are questions which will go unanswered. And we have to live with that. But that doesn't mean that we just compartmentalize it, and get rid of it. These questions will continue to come up our entire lifetime. Some will be answered, and some won't. That's a part of faith."

The big question that PFR continues to sing the answer to is the one about where men can find divine love. "Oh, where does that kind of love come from?" (a question from the song "That Kind of Love") "They say it runs in His blood," is the lyrical answer. This is not a band that gets deeply into the social-political structure of the modern international world situation. It is, instead, a rock and roll band that shares its ideas about God's love, as Mark Heard once sang, "in the light of this simple truth."

We as Christians often times become unsettled when it is so obvious to us what these answers are, and yet "the world" still misses the point. "That's the same thing with (the situation in) 'Walk Away From Love.' Here's the absolute truth," explains Hanson. "Here's an all-God/all-man individual that lived His life -

- really -- to die for us, to give us a chance to have redemption. But people hear it every day and say, 'Nah, I'm not really interested in that at all.' And I can understand that. The first time I heard the Gospel, I thought, 'Somebody's blood is going to save me? That's a little weird!'"

But the truth is a little strange and yet, at the same time, it's wonderful. And it's worth asking questions about. Thankfully, Hanson's initial hesitation was overcome, and now he is out to prevent others from letting a little hesitation prevent them from knowing the living God. "Maybe you think I'm a fool for what I'm saying, (from "Walk Away From Love") maybe that's what I'd like to be/ Or maybe you're a fool to say you're a wise man/ Either way you lose unless you meet with my King."

At the risk of stating the obvious, PFR has a lot more on its mind than the death of a family dog. They want it to be known that Goldie may have had her last day, but men and women can have eternal life if only they would meet with their King.

HM

JERUSALEM - Prophets Don't Mean Profits...

After seven years of musical hibernation, Jerusalem is back in their mission to rock. For Ulf Christiansson, the band's singer, guitar player and songwriter, the fundamental things are the motives. He will very directly proclaim that Jerusalem are on a mission from God. Listen as 43 year-old Ulf Christiansson fills us in on the details.

Jerusalem, Sweden's first Christian rock band, are through resting. The new album will be out in March and in April they will go out on a tour for a month -- both in Scandinavia and the rest of Europe. The band more or less quit in 1987 and the members went to Bible school for one year at the Word of Life church in Uppsala outside Stockholm. Then Ulf Christiansson went on preaching and performing acoustically (like Glenn Kaiser on *All My Days*) in churches throughout Sweden. The other members of the band worked with music in different ways at the church in Uppsala. In September 1993 the band moved with their families from Uppsala to Gothenburg. "It's like coming home again," Ulf tells me. "The pastor at the church we go to is an old friend of mine, and it's great to have a church that's behind you one hundred percent. Gothenburg is my hometown and I'm very happy to be back."

YOU'VE JUST RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO ICELAND, WHERE YOU WERE INVITED BY A CHURCH TO PREACH. DO YOU ENJOY PREACHING JUST AS MUCH AS PLAYING MUSIC?

"I certainly do. I think it's a matter of doing what God wants me to do. If He wants me to preach, I'll preach. If He wants me to play music, I'll play music. And, of course, when I go away like this I also sing a lot. So, half of the meeting is actually me singing. Then, I try to bring forth what God has put on my heart. In a way, it's not that different from playing."

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO



GET TOGETHER AGAIN AND PLAY, AFTER SEVEN YEARS?

"The vision of Jerusalem and the calling have never died. But we wanted to put it down totally and let God pick it up. If He didn't, it would be over. Then, in April 1992, I felt that I had to get out to the people again. I felt clearly how God spoke to me and I prayed over it for a long time before I got the other members together in December the same year. I didn't know if all would be in, but I knew that Jerusalem would be back. Even though the band members haven't been together that much in Uppsala, I got a unanimous response from all, including wives and children, which I see as somewhat of a miracle after all these years. There's a tremendous need for bands to stand up and do what we do. We also feel it's our mission -- what God set us out to do. I don't see it as a nostalgia trip. The whole thing feels very new and fresh. Some people were kind of concerned that we would be all mellow now, playing some kind of country and western music, but we have moved our positions forward. I don't think we would have made a comeback if we didn't feel we had anything new to come up with."

By Staffan Gustafsson

TELL US ABOUT THE NEW ALBUM, *Prophet*.

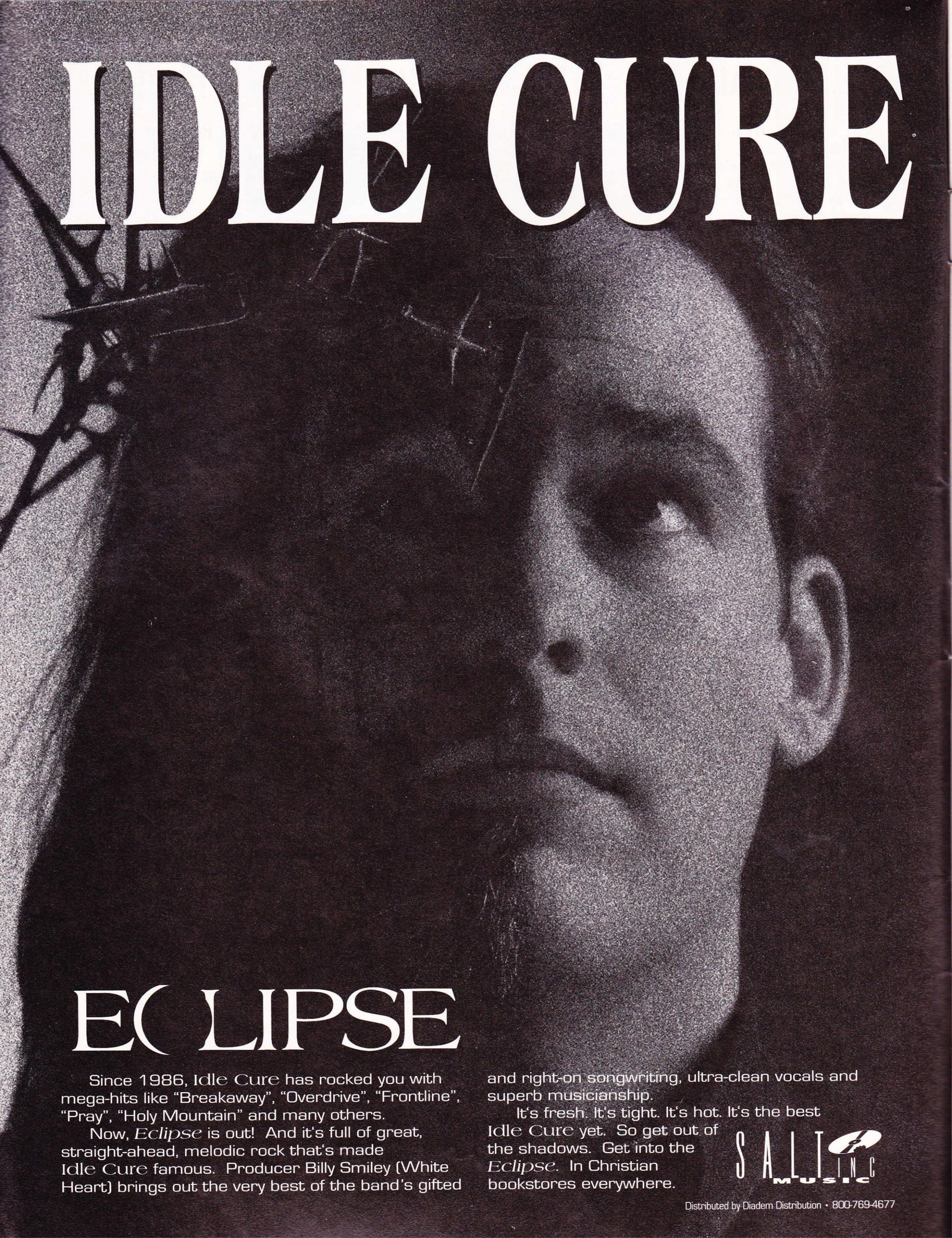
"There's 12 songs on the album and about 70 minutes of music on it; so I believe people will get a lot for their money. Lyrically, there's a lot of grace and warmth, but we turn away from religious dogmas. This may sound like a cliché, but the new material is without a doubt the best and most genuine we've ever had. We're really excited about it. We decided to call it *Prophet*, because today there are so many self-proclaimed 'prophets' trying to manipulate you through music, New Age, television and so on. We live in a time of great confusion. We want to point out that the only truth and the only prophet is Jesus Christ, and that's something humanity really needs to get back to."

"'City On Fire' is about a city that starts to burn and you can see the fire from a distance, how it grows all the time. Then I sing that it's not an ordinary fire. It's another kind of flame, and when you come close the fire will start burning in you. It's about having the fire of the Holy Spirit. 'Truth' is (based) around the concept of the album title. It's about Jesus being the only truth, and you have to stick to the truth. 'Next Year In Jerusalem' is about a Jewish guy growing up in Berlin in the 1930's. He meets a girl and they get married and have two kids. One day the Gestapo comes and takes them away. It's very strong and emotional and clocks in over nine minutes."

"'Soldier' is about us being soldiers. It's not really about warfare. It's kind of soft and gentle. 'Waiting Zone' is about AIDS, where society tries to deal with the problem from the wrong end. They seem to believe that all we have to do is educate people and the problem will go away. We have to deal with the problem where it starts. Our lifestyles are what has created this problem, which is something nobody talks about."

"The first single, 'Tomorrow,' is

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about Christ carrying the cross to Golgotha. The single has a bonus track called 'Coming Down,' about a guy lying helpless on the street and how we as Christians try to help him in different ways. (But) It's not until we come down from our high horses and to his level that we can really help him. There's kind of two sides to this story: 'He was living far above, but He came down to save us.' That's how we as Christians shall be. Our purpose is to come with the message that Jesus is alive and that He can change people's lives. Most people you can't reach with slogans and Bible verses. It takes more engagement -- both social and spiritual -- more heart and commitment to those you want to reach. Jesus had that, and it was something that the Pharisees always attacked Him for."

YOU HAVE TALKED ABOUT A NEW MUSIC. WHAT IS THE NEW MUSIC?

"A new heart. I believe it's basically more about motives than music styles. We are here to glorify God, not ourselves. I'm not trying to put anybody down, but I believe that we as Christians have never really been ready to pay the price in full. As Christian musicians, we have sometimes been too concerned seeing what is popular and following the trends. I don't think you can take the Guns 'N' Roses sound and put Jesus in it. It is to go the wrong way -- and then I'm not talking about music styles. I'm talking about the inspiration source. If we really want to win the world for Jesus with music, we must have God as our main inspiration and not let a specific band or sound be what we build our ministry on. I think God is very modern and creative and that He has something new to give musically as well. But then we must seek Him first, not the other way around.

"We have done our thing and we have had good intentions. I don't question people's motives and intentions, but I believe that there is a deeper dimension in really being called by God. And that is something I have personally learned over the last couple of years. To be called by God as a musician is something to take very seriously. It's just as serious as being called to be a missionary or a pastor. I think we really have to come to terms with ourselves why we do it. If we just do it because we think it's cool and we like heavy metal or whatever, we're really doing it for our own purpose. In John 12:24, Jesus says, 'I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But, if it dies, it produces many seeds.' I believe every Christian has to go through

such a process -- whether they are musicians or not. It's a very painful and hard process. The process is about getting to the point where you don't care if you play in a rock band or doing your thing, whatever it is. The only thing that matters in your life is your relation to God. Then we'll have a potential that's enormous; and we let God work from there. We have to ask what God wants in our life. Then we'll have the new music, a music that's very powerful spiritually."

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED DURING THE YEARS AT BIBLE SCHOOL AND WORKING AT THE CHURCH IN UPPSALA?

"I feel my faith has grown, that I have learned not to give up that easy and that I have a greater confidence for the power of the Gospel. Today I believe that we as members of Jerusalem are maybe more broadminded towards other people. We have a more humble attitude towards other people who have a different opinion. I've learned to listen more. I don't claim to have the whole truth. I have broadened my views and I feel good about that. There's a big difference (in) to hit people in the head with our doctrines and to find people's hearts. Living Christianity is a big challenge for the whole body of Christ, because it costs us the most both in terms of time and devotion. There has never been any contradiction between hearing and practicing. That was how Jesus lived all the time, and that's how we shall live."

WHAT DIRECTION DO YOU SEE CHRISTIAN MUSIC GOING IN THE CLOSE FUTURE? MASS EXPOSURE?

"I think record companies are not as reluctant towards Christian bands anymore. People are more interested in spiritual things now -- both in a positive and a negative sense. I believe Christian music will have a much more powerful impact in the world than it has had before, but it will not happen until we've realized the need of accountability (the church and the rest of the body of Christ) and submit to what God has called us to do. Of course, we shall have the freedom to do what we have in our hearts, but we need to start in the right end."

IS IT EVERY MUSICIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO WITNESS AT THEIR CONCERTS? "I'M NOT CALLED TO DO THAT..." HOW IMPORTANT IS THE TESTIMONY? DOES IT REACH THROUGH?

"I think it's very important what you show with your life, not just what you say. I mean, we can stand on the stage and preach about Jesus and our hearts can be

miles away. What we shall have on the concerts is power -- the power of God -- and it can be manifested in so many ways. Where people literally can see God's power... We have to learn to listen to what the Holy Spirit says. Sometimes it can tell us to be quiet, and sometimes to witness very intensely. I believe that testimony is important. We must use the platform God has give us to glorify Him, not ourselves."

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM JERUSALEM THE FOLLOWING YEAR?

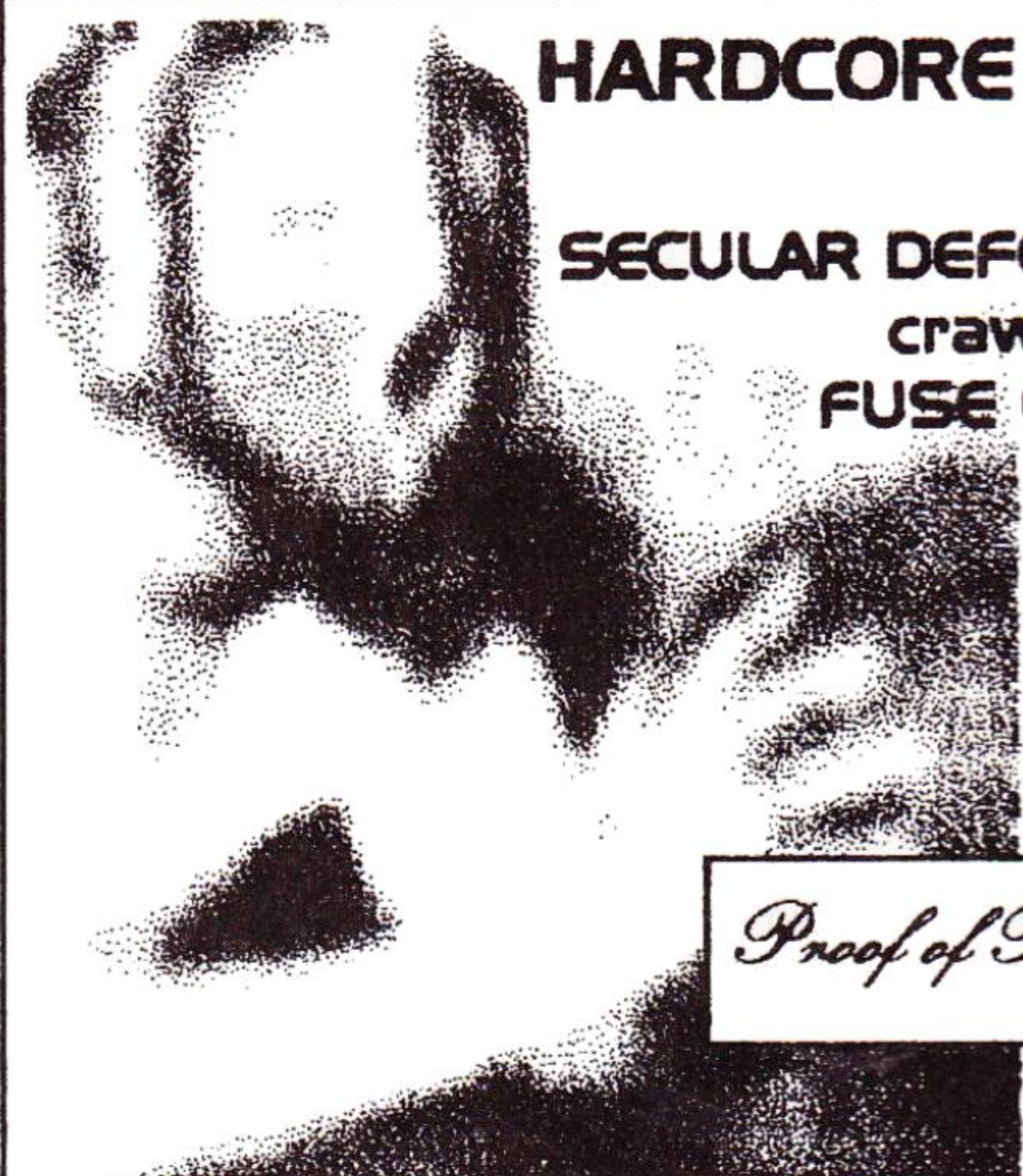
"I think you can expect to see a very dynamic and fresh band, because that's how we feel. We will tour Scandinavia and then the rest of Europe with Petra. We will also do some festivals this summer and then we hope to do the U.S. this fall or next year."

ANY CLOSING COMMENTS? A BIBLE VERSE?

"Matthew 6:33: 'Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be give to you as well.'"

So, there you have it: the band is going out to the people again with some heavy music, but different; with the same bold message, but with mercy and grace; with the same musicians, just a little older.

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David Zaffiro - Soloing In Nashville

By Stuart Patti

Stuart Patti is the editor of *The Other Side* (See advertisement in *The Trading Post*)

I first got into Bloodgood in 1987. They were coming to a high school in Denver and I was looking for some Christian heavy metal -- a match made in Heaven! At the time Stryper was all there was...well, until Bloodgood. Now, I loved Stryper as much as the next guy, but everyone needs some variety! One Christian metal band was not enough. I had the pleasure to see Bloodgood twice on the *Detonation* tour within a six month span. Those were the days!

When I first heard David Zaffiro left Bloodgood, I was sad. Would my favorite band be the same without David? What would David sound like as a solo artist? 1989 brought the answer to both questions. I bought both David's first solo lp, *The Other Side*, and the first Davidless Bloodgood lp, *Out Of The Darkness*, on the same day. At first, my sadness did not disappear. It took me a while to accept David's new sound/style. Coming from a very heavy band to *The Other Side* was quite a shock! But, a few months later, I went back to *The Other Side* and it started growing on me. Now it is my all-time favorite CD. David has since released *In Scarlet Storm* ('90), *Surrender Absolute* ('92) and now *Yesterday's Left Behind* ('94) -- all of which are very good. *Yesterday's...* could challenge *The Other Side* as David's best.

David relocated last summer to Nashville from Seattle. Of course, he brought his home studio (Mad Dog) with him. This is where he recorded his new lp, between July and December, 1993. It was in the stores the first week of February. This impressed both David and myself, because a lot of times an album can be done months before it hits the stores. As David put it, "That's Frontline for you. They're the kings at that. It's boom! There it is. Gone. It's out."

David co-wrote with his wife, Susan ("I Welcome The Rain" and "Waiting It Through"), Ken Mesford ("Nobody Knows") and Steven Patrick ("Winds Of September"). Steven Patrick -- there's that Holy Soldier connection again! Don't forget that David produced both Holy Soldier lp's and Steven sang on them both, even though he's no longer in the band. He sings on one here, and David sings the remaining tracks and there are two instrumentals.

The song Steven sings could have



"I'm going to be in Heaven's Metal?!" (Photo © Roger Riveland)

been the 10th track on Holy Soldier's *Last Train* -- and it could have fit beautifully; but it also works here. There is something special about a song produced and co-written by Mr. Zaffiro and sang by Mr. Patrick. It really makes you long for another Holy Soldier lp. But, back to David. This is his new lp and his interview.

"My new record is really dry," says David. "It's not like a real wet thing on the reverbs and the vocals. It's pretty dry. The drums have got some stuff on it; but, I mean, it's pretty dry. The drums are all programmed, but they don't sound like it at all. They sound a lot like a real kit. If you heard this thing, you'd go, 'Man, I can't believe that's programmed drums.' That's one thing I really believe shines on this record. There are a few things, if you listen closely, you'd go, 'Oh, I can kind of tell that's a high-hat machine,' but not much."

"My favorite song on the record is 'Where,' the last song on the record. (It's) very different sounding. It's kind of African with a choir. It's real different, but it's very cool. The lyrics are cool."

WELL, DAVID, IS THERE ANY SONGS ON YOUR NEW LP YOU DON'T LIKE?

(After a long pause) "No, I don't think there's one I don't like. There's things I like about all of them. They're good. There will be songs that other people won't like."

Since David came from a heavy metal band like Bloodgood, some people still classify him as a metal artist; but anyone who has listened to any of his solo lp's know that's not true.

SO, HOW DOES THE NEW LP MATCH UP AGAINST THE OTHER THREE?

"It's different stylistically than the other lp's. It leans on *Surrender...*, if anything. It's not metal at all. There's a lot of rockin' songs -- just no metal songs. A lot of slide guitar. It's the first time I've ever played slide (on an album). The slide is on 'Bottle Top.' It starts off with a spinning bottle. You hear a little tiny bottle hit the table and go (insert bottle spinning sound effects here). It starts spinning and, when the guitars come in, it's in time with the guitars and keeps going. At the end of the song the bottle finally stops."

HOW MANY TIMES DID THAT TAKE?

"Four. I recorded it four different times, then I took the one I liked

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and put it in the sampler. I had to get it to slow down and speed up to be in time with the song. So, it's a bit tricky, but it worked."

David mentioned that the sales for *Surrender Absolute* were hurt by the shake up at Frontline (change in management, etc.).

SO, HOW DO YOU THINK THE NEW LP WILL FARE?

"I have no idea. I've never really sold, like, the big 100,000 units, and that's not why I'm doing the record. I'm honored to do the record. It's really a great release for me. It's always been a fun thing to do, so I'm doing it for that reason and, if it sells well, great! That's a blessing on top of it. It does supplement my income, as far as sales and writer's royalty, but there's no way I'm going to make a living off my solo career. Unless I got real serious, went on the road and toured the everything out of it and tried to make it really go, but that's just not where I feel I'm supposed to be."

At the time of the interview, David is actually listening to the new lp in the background.

HOW LONG WILL THAT (PLAYING HIS OWN ALBUM) LAST?

"Susan put this one on. I don't ever listen to them. No, just kidding! This one's a good record. I don't listen and go, 'Aah, ooh man! I wish I could change...' Everything turned out real good. I listen to it and I think, 'Good record!' -- especially for the budget, which I won't tell what it was, but it was much less than the last one. To have it turn out this good... I think it sounds better than *Surrender...*, by far...someways. In some ways *Surrender...* sounds pretty good."

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE FOR YOU WHEN YOU PRODUCE YOURSELF VERSUS WHEN YOU PRODUCE SOMEONE ELSE?

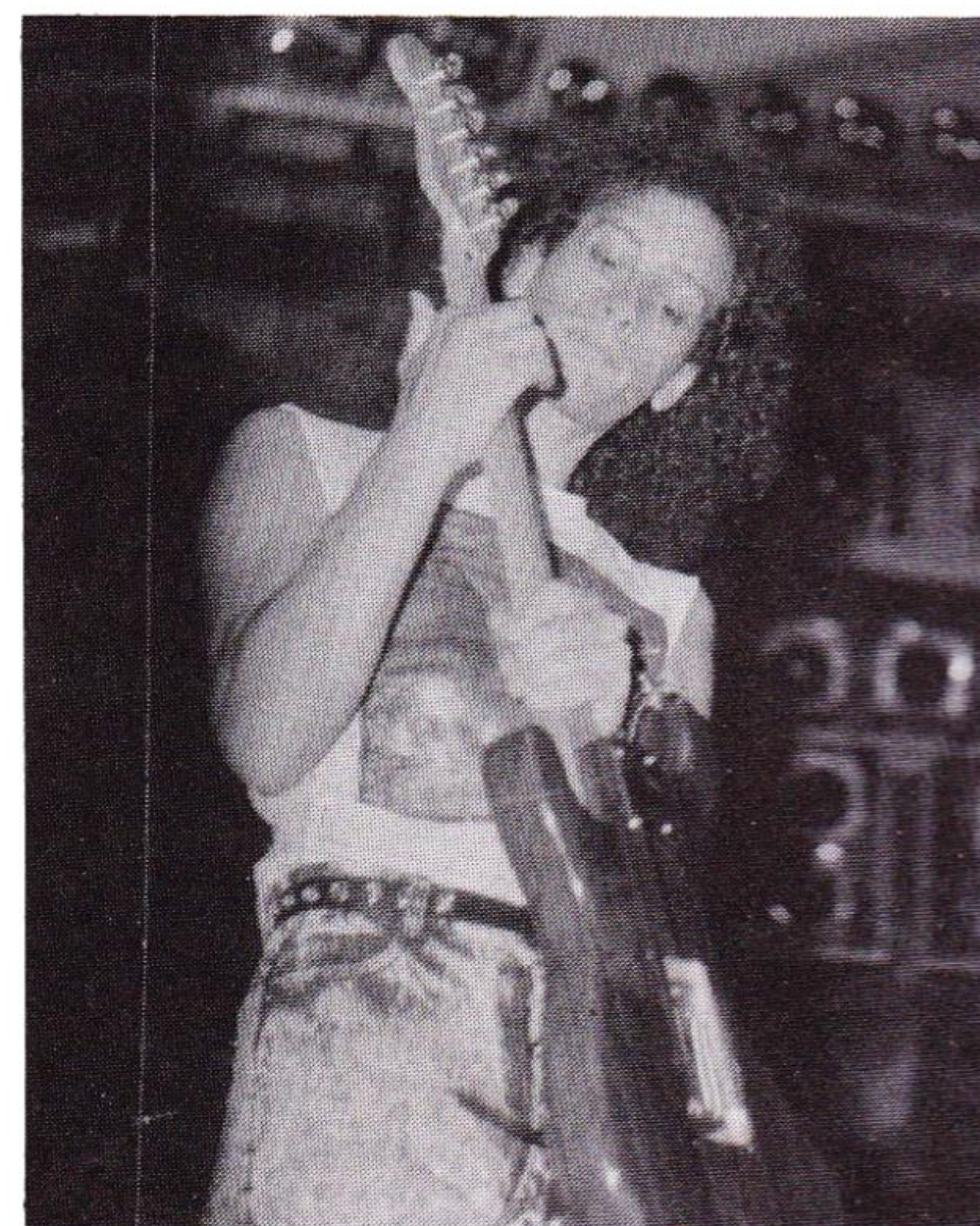
"When I do my own record, it's harder, because I've got to be the artist and producer at the same time and sometimes I really don't like that combination."

SO, WHY NOT HAVE SOMEONE ELSE COME IN?

"I would, but usually the budget doesn't allow it. If I had the budget, I would. Maverick Gibson did *In Scarlet Storm*, and that was good for me. So, yeah, I would love that, 'cause it brings a fresh perspective when an individual comes in and says, 'This is a great idea, David, but you might want to consider this or take it

over here,' or they may say, 'You know what, David? This is a horrible idea! I can't believe you're considering it! You might want to throw it out.' So, that kind of stuff is good. It stretches you."

For the Christian rock industry, it's a good thing David's in Nashville now (I guess), so he'll be more able to lend his capable hands on several more rockin' albums. So, the future looks bright for David, even though the musical yesterdays he's left behind don't seem that bad. HM



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Label Profile: R.E.X.

By Andrew Crump

For those of you who think that there is no room for advancement in the Christian music industry, look no further than R.E.X. Music. Director of Marketing and A&R (Artist & Repertoire) guy, Tyler Bacon, was once the editor for the small underground zine Radically Saved. Now he's got the unique perspective of running (along with former V.P. for Pure Metal and Wonderland -- Gavin Morkel) one of Christian hard music's most radical labels. With the addition of the Grrr recordS roster and the "new" Whitecross, along with mainstream distribution through R.E.D. (Relativity Entertainment Distribution) R.E.X. is set to be the major force in Christian hard music in the next however many years to come (although small independent labels like Tooth & Nail aren't far behind in quality product).

With three different departments to cater to the individual tastes of its listeners -- R.E.X. (hard music), Pop-u-li (pop and alternative) and Storyville Records (folk solo artists) -- R.E.X. Records is on a mission to "take the art of Christians into the world at large." Listen to Tyler as he shares a bit of information about an extremely blustering record company.

WHEN AND WHY WAS R.E.X. STARTED?

"R.E.X. began back in 1987 as a production company," says Tyler. "It was started by Doug Mann. He kind of did it on the side, because he was in the military at the time. He had found a band called Believer that he was working with. He found a few other records. I think the Trytan record was the first release ever on R.E.X. He found the record and did a real deal to have it distributed through another company. It started because Doug was into pretty radical music and was a Christian, and still is even. He wanted to do Christian music of a much non-normal style. So, that's kind of how it began."

YOU MENTIONED BELIEVER AND TRYTAN. WHAT OTHER BANDS DO YOU THINK SPARKED THE INTEREST TO CREATE A LABEL FOR CHRISTIAN METAL BANDS?

"Doug found a band called The Lead, which was a punk band with a female vocalist. He told me the story



Tyler Bacon

before that the band was just very non-commercial and very radical. That was really where his heart was at. He found this demo tape and was like, 'Yes, this is what I want to do.' So, he started working with The Lead, and they did a couple of records. So, those were the beginnings.

"I think Doug developed this label just out of his personal taste. He wanted to do Christian music, but he didn't want to do mainstream stuff. He just wanted to do stuff that he himself would listen to and, obviously, what a lot of kids would listen to who were not into the mainstream side of things."

SINCE YOU'VE BEEN THERE, HAS R.E.X. PUT OUT ANY MUSIC THAT MAYBE YOU REGRET EVER HIT THE SHELVES OF RECORD STORES?

"Who put you up to asking that question?"

I THOUGHT OF IT WHEN I WAS TAKING A SHOWER AFTER WORK.

"I would have to say yes. If you want me to name them specifically, I probably won't just out of courtesy for those specific artists. There's a concept that people probably need to understand: To maintain a label, you have to have a certain amount of money coming through to pay the bills. In order to do that, sometimes you have to release some records that

may not be completely ideal, but you need to get them out to facilitate cash flow. That is not ideal, but sometimes you have to do it. Sometimes a band is pretty cool; but, to get a great record, you need to spend a lot of money on good production. Sometimes you are not able to do this."

WHAT DOES R.E.X. LOOK FOR IN A BAND BEFORE SIGNING THEM TO A RECORD DEAL?

"We look for many different things. One, the demo tape has to really grab my ear. That's probably where the whole process starts. The majority of the bands that I've signed have signed from demo tapes. They have to have three or four songs on a demo tape, and it has to really kick butt. They have to be relevant and timely musically. I think that one of the things that grabs me most off of demo tapes is they have to have real strong vocals. They obviously have to be good songwriters and good performers.

"Once a demo tape interests me, then the second step is that they have to be people that I would want to work with. We obviously want to sign believers, and we want to sign believers that hopefully live out their faith. I want them to approach what they do from a Christian world view.

"Another thing I look for is their live show. At this point, I don't have huge requirements for a live show. We're pretty willing to let a band develop and become

LOOK AT WHO'S SAYING WHAT ABOUT

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"Ken Tamplin is one of the seven greatest singer, songwriter performers to have come out of So. California. The new TAMPLIN release may be one of the finest Rock 'N' Roll records of the decade." JOE BENSON - KLOS RADIO LOS ANGELES

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ANNE LEIGHTON - HIT PARADER MAGAZINE

"Ken Tamplin just doesn't quit. He never ceases to amaze with his ability to continually come up with that unforgettable hook."

GENE SIMMONS - KISS

"Ken Tamplin, what a voice. I wish he was singing for me." PETER CRISS - KISS

"Just when I thought Ken Tamplin had finally recorded his best work in Magdallan, they sent me the new Tamplin."

Wow! Who is this guy?" DAVE LING - RAW MAGAZINE

"The next time I need vocals, I'm coming to look for Tamplin." JOE SATRIANI

"Tamplin's music speaks for me." WARREN MARTINI - RATT

"It's good to see people out there still making real music." STEVE LUKATHER - TOTO

"Tamplin, Tamplin, Tamplin, mmmmmm Tamplin. What more can I say?" JEFF LYNNE - ELO

"We wanted Ken to sing for the band. Too bad it didn't work out."

I guess Tamplin wanted to say something else with his music. Good luck Ken." MICK MARS - MOTLEY CRUE

"Mr. Tamplin strikes the chord of soul like no one else can." STEVE VAI

"A Yankee with a voice? I didn't know they made 'em! That was until I heard Ken Tamplin!" JOHN ENTWISTLE - THE WHO

"What a talented young man. When Lou left the band, we'd hoped Ken Tamplin would've come on board. Some things just aren't meant to be."

But it would have been interesting." MICK JONES - FOREIGNER

"This man Ken Tamplin knows how to write songs." ROBIN ZANDER - CHEAP TRICK

"Excellent record. Flawless performance with songs to match. Really good stuff!" DAVID SIKES - BOSTON

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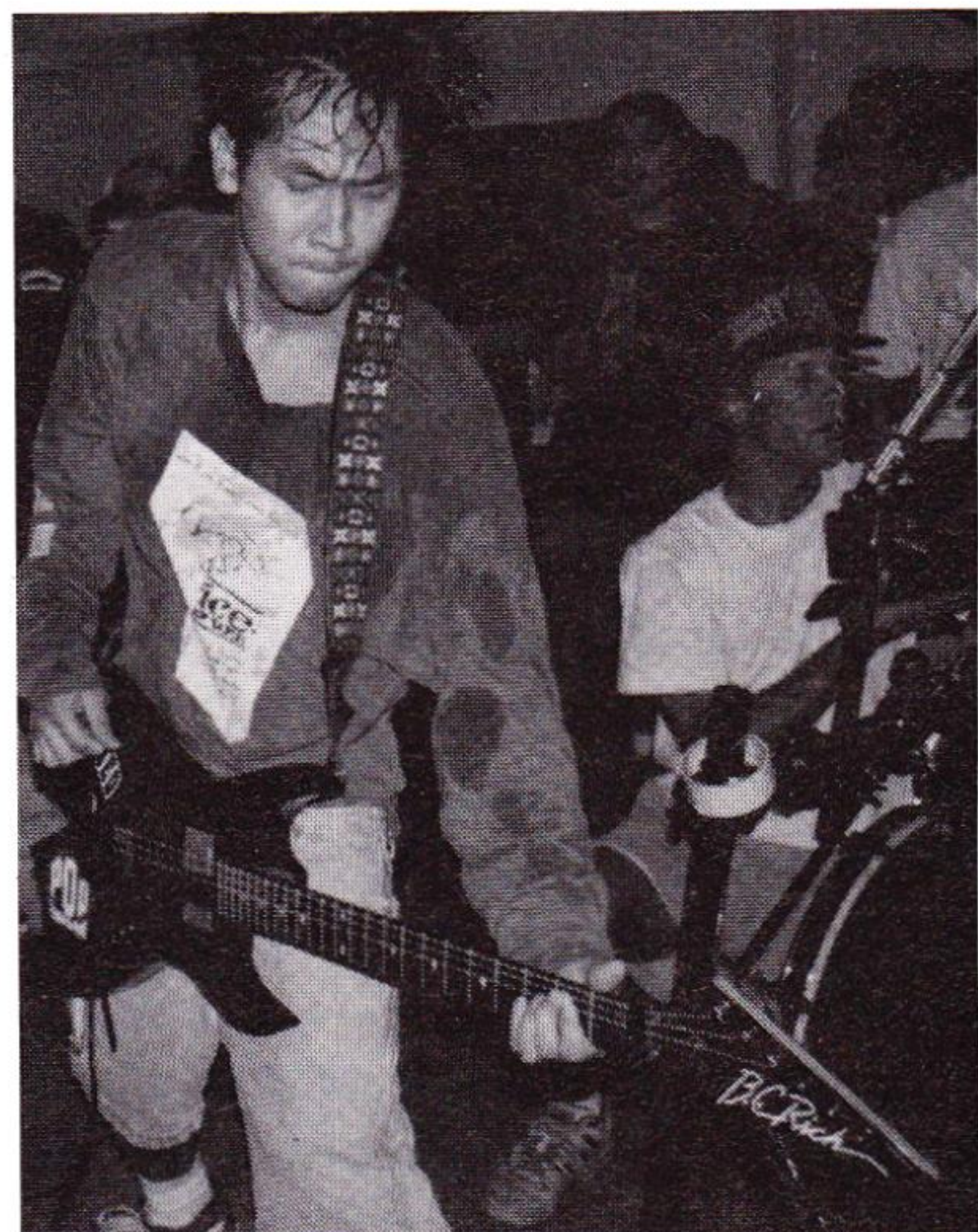
Focused cont'd:

are still old school straight-edge kids -- but now there's the new school. The music has changed. Even the dance has changed. They don't do circle slam dancing anymore. They kick box, which is a dance where the people move from side to side, swinging their arms up into the air and kicking their legs out.

"Concerning straight-edge, I live my life straight because my body's the temple of the Holy Spirit. I'm going to say this, and it will probably offend a lot of people, but I don't think it's wrong to drink. It's really a legal thing. I think drugs and premarital sex are wrong, and the vegetarian thing -- I did that for three years, but it was for personal reasons of health. Andrew and Dirk are vegetarians, but they know God doesn't condemn meat eating."

**DO YOU EVER HAVE
UNSAVED KIDS YELLING AND
CUSSING AT YOU?**

"We've had kids yell things at us. In fact, some people have been passing out some really grotesque flyers at our shows with things like Jesus and nuns. It's about five kids whose main goal is to upset us. The funny thing is that the kid who decided to do all this is the first kid who ever had the guts to come up and talk to me about it. Kids will yell at me, and I ask them to come up and talk to me after the show, but they don't. This guy is really bitter and angry. Their goal with the flyer is to show that hardcore and Christianity have no place together. It's funny, because I lived the way he did before I was a Christian; and now that I am, I know that I live a hardcore lifestyle every single day, because I have people looking at me with a microscope waiting for me to screw up -- that in itself is a hardcore lifestyle." **HM**



Mike Merryman

who they want to be. I want them to be able to communicate whatever they are going to do live. Those are the three main things that we look for and the process of going about looking for them."

**HOW MANY DEMOS DO
YOU RECEIVE A YEAR?**

"I don't know. Five hundred maybe."

**HOW MANY BANDS DO
YOU SIGN A YEAR?**

"Right now we're in more of a growth stage, so we're kind of securing our roster. I have about six or seven artists right now that I know I want to work with for the next however many years. I'm still looking for some great bands. I'll probably sign about another four bands before the year is over. I'll probably only sign two bands on the R.E.X. side of things.

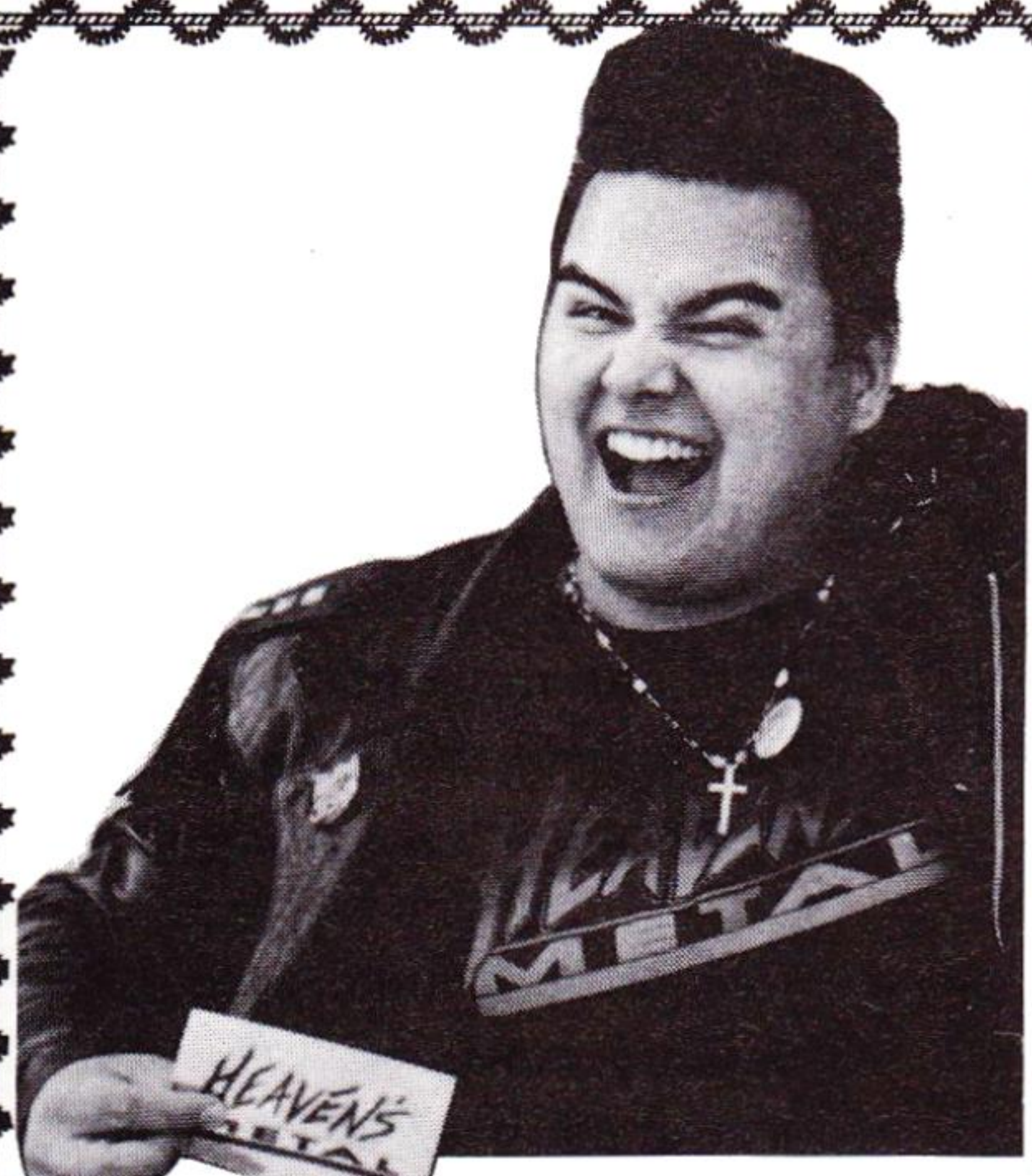
"We've got some new bands coming. We've just signed Six Feet Deep. So, they're a band I want to work with for the next however many years. They're like the new school hardcore. Some bands that would be relevant to them would be like Biohazard. If The Crucified was still going today, it would be along those lines."

**IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT
IS THE STATUS OF CHRISTIAN
METAL TODAY? WHERE DOES IT
STAND AND WHERE IS IT GOING?**

"I think that Christian music as a whole has come a long way in the last five years. I think we're getting to the point where we have some bands that are relevant to music in general. The truth is, five years ago, we kind of had to compromise our listening habits to facilitate listening to Christian music. It was kind of like, 'I want to listen to Christian music, but I'm pretty much going to have to sacrifice my standards of music in order to do so,' because there wasn't a lot of quality stuff out there. I think it's getting to the point now where we have top notch music that is Christian music. We are becoming more relevant and more creative."

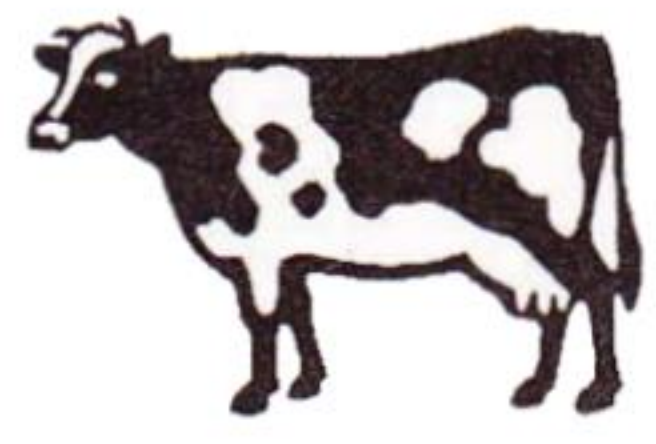
You'll have a chance to see how creative the artists on R.E.X. can be this summer, with the label's "It's Gonna Be A Hard Year, And God Has Provided..." campaign and *Hard Music Sampler* CD scheduled to go on sale for \$1.99 in June. You'll also see the label team up with Tooth & Nail for distribution through R.E.D. for bands like Wish For Eden and Starflyer 59.

Look for other label profiles in upcoming issues, as well as interviews with producers, sound engineers, studio owners, etc. to let you see what goes on behind the making of music. **HM**



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What Brother Cane Sez:

This issue our "What So & So Sez" feature brings us face to face with Damon Johnson, lead vocalist for the upwardly mobile Brother Cane. You may have heard the band's first big single "Got No Shame." Now get to know the voice behind the song.

The interview began with a short discussion on Phil Keaggy, sparked by a description of the Heaven's Metal Magazine that was on the table. Seems Damon had been listening to Phil for several years, dating back to his *Play Thru Me* album recorded "on a little label called Sparrow." Listen in as the conversation turns to Brother Cane.

WHAT LED FOUR GUYS FROM BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA TO CREATE THIS KIND OF MUSIC. I MEAN, WHY AREN'T YOU GUYS A METAL BAND?

(laughs) "Well, I think the Southern Rock thing is something that has come up a lot this whole year. We love southern rock music -- what people consider southern rock music. To us, that term typifies a group of bands that came out of the 70's -- Atlanta Rhythm Section, Marshall Tucker Band, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Molly Hatchet, and even The Allmans to some degree, even though they were more of a blues band. We were very much influenced by that; however, we were equally influenced by so many of the British metal bands, like Cream, Thin Lizzy, Deep Purple, Zeppelin, even Aerosmith and Van Halen. I think we just sort of combined all these different things together.

"When we sit down to write a song, we don't go, 'Let's write a Van Halen song,' or (looking at my cap) 'Let's write a King's X song.' We're just into so many different bands that I think a little bit of everything comes out in each individual song. I would imagine, coming from the South, you definitely may hear more southern rock. You can't go into any restaurant, skating rink, pool hall, a nightclub or anything and not have tons of Allman Brothers and Lynyrd Skynyrd on the juke box. The first two bands I was in...that's basically all we played, was southern rock music. Certainly that influenced me as a guitar player."

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HEAR "GOT NO SHAME" ON THE RADIO?

"Absolutely the greatest. The



The "Cane Brothers" l to r: Damon Johnson, Scott Collier, Roman Glick, Glenn Maxey (Photo by Wyatt Troll)

record's been out for seven months now and I just heard 'Got No Shame' yesterday on the radio and I reached over and just blasted it. I still get a total charge of that. Radio's already started playing our second single -- "That Don't Satisfy Me," which has done very well. We just didn't think it'd kick in as far as radio airplay. We planned to be on the road forever, but to get to tour with these big acts and play big shows, I think it maybe helped us step up a little quicker. We don't get any MTV. We're not like 'darlings of the rock press,' or anything like that yet, but that's fine with us. We just wanna play. I hope that, in 20 years, if the band's broken up and gone on, that people can look back and say, 'Brother Cane was just a great live band, and all they cared about was playing music.' That's what got us into this, and hopefully that's what will help us continue."

YOU'RE A YOUNG BAND; AND AEROSMITH, A BAND THAT'S KICKED A HEROIN HABIT, HAS UNANIMOUSLY PICKED YOU AS A SUPPORT ACT. I HEARD THAT ALL FIVE OF 'EM, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AGREED ON ONE BAND... HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT DRUGS?

"Man, I'd be the last guy on the planet to say that the four guys in Brother Cane are saints, you know. But I can honestly tell you that the way everyone has always prioritized music and our career has

helped us stay focused. All of us are in our mid-20's to late 20's, so it's not like we're an 18 year-old band. I mean, I remember when Van Halen first came out, they were kids, and all this press and stuff was about their after-show activities and that whole thing. We're definitely not advocates of really anything other than music. Everybody's got their own vices and they've got their own things that they do in their spare time. We're just not really known as a hard partyin' band. I don't think we ever will be.

"Speaking for myself personally, I can't sing...I can't get up there and play lead guitar and sing and sort of be master of ceremonies and literally do anything... I mean, alcohol is bad for you, drugs, smoking is bad for you. I'm just so serious about trying to have a good consistency in our live shows that having the fans leave going, 'Man, that band rocked my face off!' is way more important than drinking... I don't want to do that.

"Again, I think it has a lot to do with the fact that we're a little older. It's like my dad used to tell me, 'Damon, when you get about 25 or 26, all of a sudden you're gonna start seeing things a little differently. You're gonna clue in.' I always thought he was crazy! (laughs) I'm 29 now, and I distinctly remember that time in my life, when you start to realize, 'Hey, I feel like I was put here to play music and this is a gift I've been given and

I need to make the best of it.' If I've got a day off, you know, it's nice to sit around with the guys and drink a beer and listen to records and stuff like that, but I don't think we're gonna be The Rolling Stones (laughs) -- ever! Now, you may come up to me in three years and my eyes are all glassed over and then you can get me, 'Ahh! You told me different, boy!'

"I think our fans are a pretty rowdy bunch. They love to have a good time. We advocate having a good time, but the last thing we want to see happen is people get so carried away with it that they get hurt or, worse than that, drinking and driving -- everybody knows what a bad scene that is. I've lost a lot of friends to drugs and alcohol. I guess that's another thing that's subliminally played a part in us realizing that -- 'Hey man! There's a lot more things more important than abusing your body.'"

YOUR LYRICS, LIKE IN THE SONG "PRESSURE," MAKES ME WANT TO ASK THIS NEXT QUESTION: "HOW DO YOU VALUE VIRGINITY?"

(laughs) "Wow! First time I've been asked that question! You know, things are a lot different in this day and age than they were. I remember when I was in high school. I graduated high school in '82. There were always sexual diseases and things like that. The whole AIDS thing really came to a head about that time and became a definite fixture in our society. The thing that really drives me crazy is there's all this proof -- you see it on television and you see it on the news and read it in magazines -- about the effects of promiscuity. I don't think anybody's slowing down at all. I lost my virginity when I was 15.

"I don't know. This is really an interesting question. I always wondered if I would be asked this because of the lyric in the song. That is the specific reason that lyric was put there. It was written about a person that I was real close to. It was weird: once they gave their body away, it changed everything. It just seemed to change the way this person lived their life. I don't know. I certainly know that just saving yourself for that person you're going to spend the rest of your life with is the best way to go.

"I know, in this day and age, so many people I talk to are like, 'I just can't do that! I've got to see what a person's like in all areas before I decide to commit my whole life to 'em.' It's a tough thing to do. Peer pressure and keeping up with the Joneses is typical. It's been that way for 40 or 50 years -- as long as rock and roll has been around. It's hard for me to stand and

point a finger and say, 'Hey! You shouldn't do this!' because, you know, I succumbed to peer pressure, just like everybody else. I don't think I've met too many virgins on this tour (laughs)! I don't know that there's been any that's come to any Brother Cane shows. That's a good question."

YOU GUYS SEEM TO CARRY SOME OF THE ATTITUDES AND VALUES OF THE AREA YOU WERE BROUGHT UP. YOU'VE GOT SOME OF THE LYNYRD SKYNYRD "GOOD OLE BOY" VIBE TO YA. WHAT ARE YOUR VALUES BASED UPON? IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE YOUR VALUES IN 10 WORDS OR SO, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

"One of those 10 words would have to be 'family.' We all came from very supportive families. A lot of people get into this business out of rebellion or out of lack of respect for teachers or authorities or whatever. We all got into music because we loved it. I think all of our families knew that. Everybody in this band has very supportive parents and brothers and sisters. I think that's one reason we seem to gel so well together, because that is kind of the foundation for everything in our lives -- our family.

"I don't know. I guess the things that we're most committed to are just taking our career very serious and trying to turn other people on to good music, because that's why we all got into this. When we get off the road for a period of time, there's nothing better than to go home. We had three weeks off over the Christmas holidays, and it was the greatest thing. In the last few years it's been kind of tough, because I was always on the verge of getting something going with some different band and finally this year... It was like I had something I could hang on the wall. Everybody had been keeping up with what we were doing. It's just a great feeling. This was one of the best Christmas times I think I've ever had."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST?

"Jesus Christ has played a major role in my life -- ever since I was a kid. My parents...I guess that's the greatest gift they ever gave to me -- is they took me to church when I was a little kid and that was very much a part of my growing up. In the last five or six years, I can look at a lot of different times where I was at the end of my rope -- thinking I was at the end of my rope, as far as trying to get a band together or get my life focused or my career focused -- He's always been there for me.

"Everybody's got different ways, I guess, of expressing their devotion. It's

kind of a personal thing with me. But, I always felt like God gave me the gift of music. I'm just grateful everyday that I'm able to do this on the level that we are now. I have Him to thank for that, because He put here and He gave me the natural ability to be a musician. What's really weird is that I was on such an opposite course for so long. I mean, I was so focused on going to school. I did real good in high school. I was going to college to be an engineer and it was through a series of events that it was like music kept throwing itself in my face. I kept getting offers by better bands and better players and that kind of thing. It's almost like fate played a hand in directing me. I've always thanked God for that -- for helping me figure out what it is that I want to do. I think that's the toughest challenge in anybody's life -- is determining exactly what you want to be doing in your time here. If I can bring people happiness and bring them a good vibe by the songs that I write, the songs that we write as a band, the riffs that I play on guitar, whatever, then that's the most beautiful thing of all -- to connect with somebody through music."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HIS CLAIMS TO BE "THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE, NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER BUT BY ME?"

"There is no other way, man. You know, I am a member of the Church of Christ and I was baptized when I was 10 years old. I guess the thing to do is just encourage people to read for themselves. As I have gotten older I've met more people in this business who...you'd be surprised at the number of atheists that are out here -- people that don't even believe at all. I've found myself really challenged often and the best way to deal with that. Maybe, as you get older, you try to find ways to set a good example for people. I have my mom of all others to thank for that. She always said, 'No matter what you do in life, set a good example.'

"Read for yourself, man. I've got my Bible in my bag on the bus, you know. It's great therapy for me. The schedule that we have out here is ridiculous. I love to spend time... When you're younger and your parents are taking you to church and your relatives are taking you there and they're telling you all these things, a lot of it you accept to be as the way it is without much proof of it. I think if you're older it's more of a challenge that you take it upon yourself to read and to study and to find out yourself and make up your own mind. But He is the only Way, period."

"I've got to tell you, this is

probably one of the more unique interviews I've done. A lot of people don't associate rock and roll with Christianity and all that together. There are bands out there that wave more of a flag and make more of a deal about the fact that, you know, it's a Christian thing that they're basing their music on. I'm a firm and avid believer that you can do that without forcing it down people's throats. I think it all gets down to the example you set, the way you live your life. The way you touch other people and the things you do and say. I mean, I'm just thankful that I was saved and that...I am the last person ever to point a finger at anyone else, because I have my problems and my hang-ups and my bad days. It's great to know that you can go to Him and He'll give you strength and show you the right way to go when you've got a tough decision to make or things aren't going your way."

DOES YOUR CHURCH EVER GIVE YOU THE WHOLE DOCTRINE ABOUT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS?

"Oh yeah, which is really kind of strange (laughs). For me, I have always enjoyed going to the Church of Christ. I had some really great teachers there. I had some really good ministers there. We just seem to really enjoy the sound that the human voice makes. I was never really in a congregation that made a big deal out of, 'Hey! You're not supposed to have instruments in music, period. It's wrong!' It was never that, it was just always more, 'Hey, we just like it better when it's just our voices, more of an a cappella thing.' I've sung in some amazing churches, man. When you hear a lot of human voices come together, it can be a spine-tingling thing."

"Hands down, no question about it, the church was my first exposure to music. My mom always encouraged me to sing out, thinking maybe I had some natural ability. I could look at the notes on the page and actually sing the pitch and stuff. It was right there that I got my start. I'm sure there's a lot of people that I knew as a kid that know what I'm doing now that probably aren't too crazy about it, 'cause I'm up on stage jumping around playing this guitar, 'Playin' that devil music!' (laughs)"

ARE THE OTHER GUYS IN THE BAND OF THE SAME MIND?

"Everybody's got their own individual thing. We don't spend a lot of time necessarily discussing our views, when it comes to religion; which can be bad, it could be good. All I know is that I believe I'm a good enough judge of character by the years and years I played music and just been on earth -- I wouldn't

be playing with those three guys if I thought that they believed something opposite of me or just so far off course... That's the only way you can stay together for a long period of time. The fact that we've been together for four years is an accomplishment. I honestly believe that we can be around for much longer than that.

"I don't know. I guess with any band, everybody's maybe got another guy that he's buddies with about certain things. It's interesting, because Scott (Collier) and I both went to the Church of Christ and a lot of times we sit on the bus and talk about what it was like when we were kids. He's got the same problem I have. He still lives in a little town outside of Birmingham where he grew up. He was telling me he went home one time and he said, 'The only thing that's weird is a lot of people at the church were like, 'I don't know, you're playing this rock and roll.'"

"You can't paint a picture of me that I'm a saint."

"Again, it all goes back to the example you lead. I don't know. For me, Jesus Christ has always given me strength, I guess, to get up every day and be motivated and focused. It was really hard for us to get a record deal coming from Birmingham, Alabama. That is considered the boon docks if anything ever was. It took a lot of fortitude, a lot of commitment, a lot of persistence to reach this level. Believe me, a lot of times I was completely rejected and thought it was never gonna happen. All you can do is pray and hope. A lot of times I never knew where I was getting the motivation to keep pushing. In hindsight I think I know where that came from. I'm just eternally grateful for that."

I'VE BEEN DOING THIS MAGAZINE THING FOR EIGHT AND A HALF YEARS NOW, AND A LOT OF TIMES IN THIS FIELD OF ROCK AND ROLL I RUN INTO PEOPLE THAT AREN'T BOUND UP WITH RELIGION AND LEGALISM AND STUFF; AND YET SOME OF MY READERS...THEY'LL BE READING THIS INTERVIEW AND THEY'LL GO, "WELL, DOUG, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO QUIZ HIM AND FIND OUT IF HE'S A REAL CHRISTIAN?" OR "DOUG, ARE YOU GONNA MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE HE'S A SAINT?"

SOMETIMES I FIND MYSELF IN A

POSITION OF THE PRESSURE OF, "SHOULD I PLEASE THESE PEOPLE THAT ARE LEGALIST PEOPLE, OR, MOST NATURALLY, SHOULD I PLEASE GOD?" MOST NATURALLY IS TO LIVE IN GRACE, AND GRACE IS ACCEPTING PEOPLE AND NOT COMING DOWN HARD ON SOMEONE AND TELLING THEM TO GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER BEFORE THEY COME TO GOD, BECAUSE GOD'S NOT THAT WAY. JESUS DIDN'T SAY, "GET CLEAN BEFORE YOU TAKE A BATH."

"No. You're exactly right about that. You definitely can't paint a picture of me that I'm a saint, because that would be wrong (laughs). But this is great. I don't go to church much at all anymore. We're always on the road and we're always playing and, I guess, I live my life -- from a religious standpoint -- in my own way. I believe that I'm doing the best I can. I know that God knows I'm doing the best I can. I just recall what it was like when I was in school. I was listening to all this amazing music, but a lot of my friends or friend's parents didn't necessarily approve of it, because it wasn't 'right in their book.' I think the kid's gotta be left to his own devices to make his own decision about it.

"Music is my life. I don't want to say it saves my life, but it is my life, man. It's the greatest thing that ever happened to me. I'm just so thankful that I was able to hear all these different bands and all these different kinds of music. Again, it just goes back to what I said earlier about the way you live your life. I don't ever want to be a flag waver, saying, 'You've gotta do this and you've gotta do that.' If I can turn somebody on in the example I lead, then that's cool. That's a good example. I don't always set a good example, but that's why it's always great -- you can go to Him for forgiveness."

DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT -- LOOKING AT PHIL KEAGGY OR SOMEBODY LIKE PETRA OR STRYPER -- INCORPORATING SOME OF THOSE BELIEFS IN YOUR MUSIC, OR DO YOU THINK THAT'S NATURALLY GOING TO COME OUT SOMEDAY?

"Nah, you know, I've always been the kind of guy that says, 'Let things take their course naturally.' The lyrics I wrote on this record I wrote for whatever reason or another. It'll be interesting to see what happens, because I write lyrics based on experiences I have and things that influence my day-to-day life. So, you never know. I guess we'll have to wait and see. I'd love to jam with Phil Keaggy though! (laughs) I would love to jam with that guy. He's amazing."

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METAL TRACKS

Tourniquet is working on a new album that is due out early this summer. It will be called *Vanishing Lessons* and be produced by Jim Faraci (DRI, Ratt, LA Guns, Poison) and be recorded in Poison's studio in L.A. The title track is inspired by Harry Houdini, who made his career by fooling and deceiving people. The band makes a parallel with people pursuing rewards in life that "vanish" when you reach them. (How the material things in this world really don't satisfy) There's another cut on the album called "Twilight," which is about the neglect of the elderly in our society.

Rik Foley is no longer playing with **Bride**. This spring's European dates will be his last with the band. **Bride** encourages any prospective bass players to write to the band's address (printed in the band's albums).

Guardian entered the studio in early March to record an entirely acoustic record for a late spring release on Pakaderm Records. This "unplugged" record (tentatively titled *Wire & Wood*) will be accompanied by a full length video package that will include live and studio performances plus some humorous "rockumentary" footage from **Guardian's** *Miracle Mile* tour. This release will be the first to be completed in producers John and Dino Elefante's newly completed "Sound Kitchen" studios in Nashville.

Rick Macias (ex-Sacred Warrior) has written a book in response to **Jimmy Swaggart's** updated *Christian Rock: Wolves in Sheep's Clothing*. Rick's called his, appropriately: *Christian Rock: Wolves in Sheep's Clothing? Sheep in Wolves Clothing*. He also dropped some hints that maybe we'll see a **Sacred Warrior** reunion album in the future...

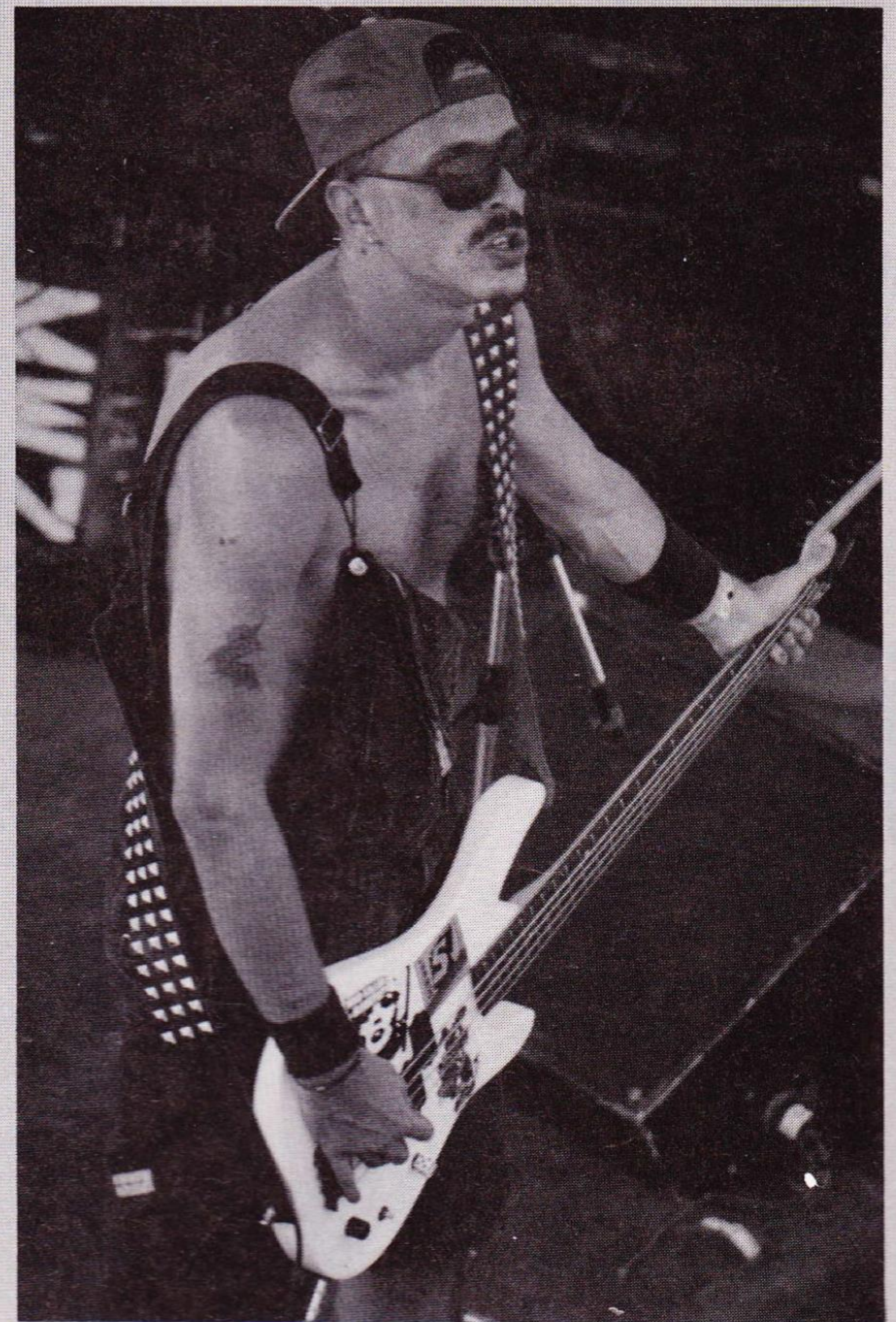
Glenn Kaiser is releasing a new solo album called *Spontaneous Combustion*. It's Chicago style plugged-in electric blues, "full of raw emotion and backed up by some of Chicago's finest blues musicians." A music video has been shot with Glenn in a Chicago junkyard, complete with junkyard dogs. On a recent concert trip to Costa Rica, the concert sponsors were unable to cover the costs to bring all the members of **REZ** over, so they used local musicians to back up the Kaisers. The band's name was **REZ Espanola**. The Kaisers report that they were pretty good at that. **REZ** finished filming a new

video for the song "Land of Stolen Breath." **Grrr** reports that it's "Cyberpunk-ish and post-apocalyptic ala 'Road Warrior' and 'Blade Runner.'" This epic project includes miniatures, matte paintings and a cast of dozens. The theme takes the lyrics of the song as a jumping off place and adds several new layers of meaning, with emphasis on the trivializing of suffering in the information age." Fellow **Grrr** artists **Crashdog** are also shooting a new video.

Dakoda Motor Co. has been hanging out at Stag Street Studio in Sherman Oaks, California lately, recording their sophomore **Myrrh** release, *Welcome, Race Fans*, which releases in June.

The 77's are now on **Myrrh** Records. They will be teaming up with **The Prayer Chain** for the "Buzz Stop" tour, which will raise money for the Parents Pediatric AIDS Coalition. The tour follows the release of **The 77's** new album, *Drowning With Land In Sight*. As an incentive for the tour, Reunion Records is releasing a limited edition four-song live CD from **The Prayer Chain**. Three of the songs are from the *Shawl* repertoire, and the fourth cut is a never-before-released one called "The Cutter." Only 2,700 copies of this have been made available to stores, so grab 'em up quick before they're gone forever.

Funds raised from the sale of a special tour t-shirt, as well as Parents Pediatric AIDS Coalition benefit concerts in San Francisco and Los Angeles will go to send children and their parents to Disneyland in Anaheim, CA for the weekend. This organization works with schools, churches, and other private institutions to provide education about how AIDS affects families that have children with the virus. "In addition to education advocacy programs, arranging fun activities for the children and their parents is a vital part of what we do as a support group," says PPAC founder Joan Milne. "Many



Rik Foley - Gone! (Photo © Peter Petretta)

families of children with the AIDS virus live below the poverty line and are hit with enormous medical bills. Allowing the children to experience as much as they can while they can is very important."

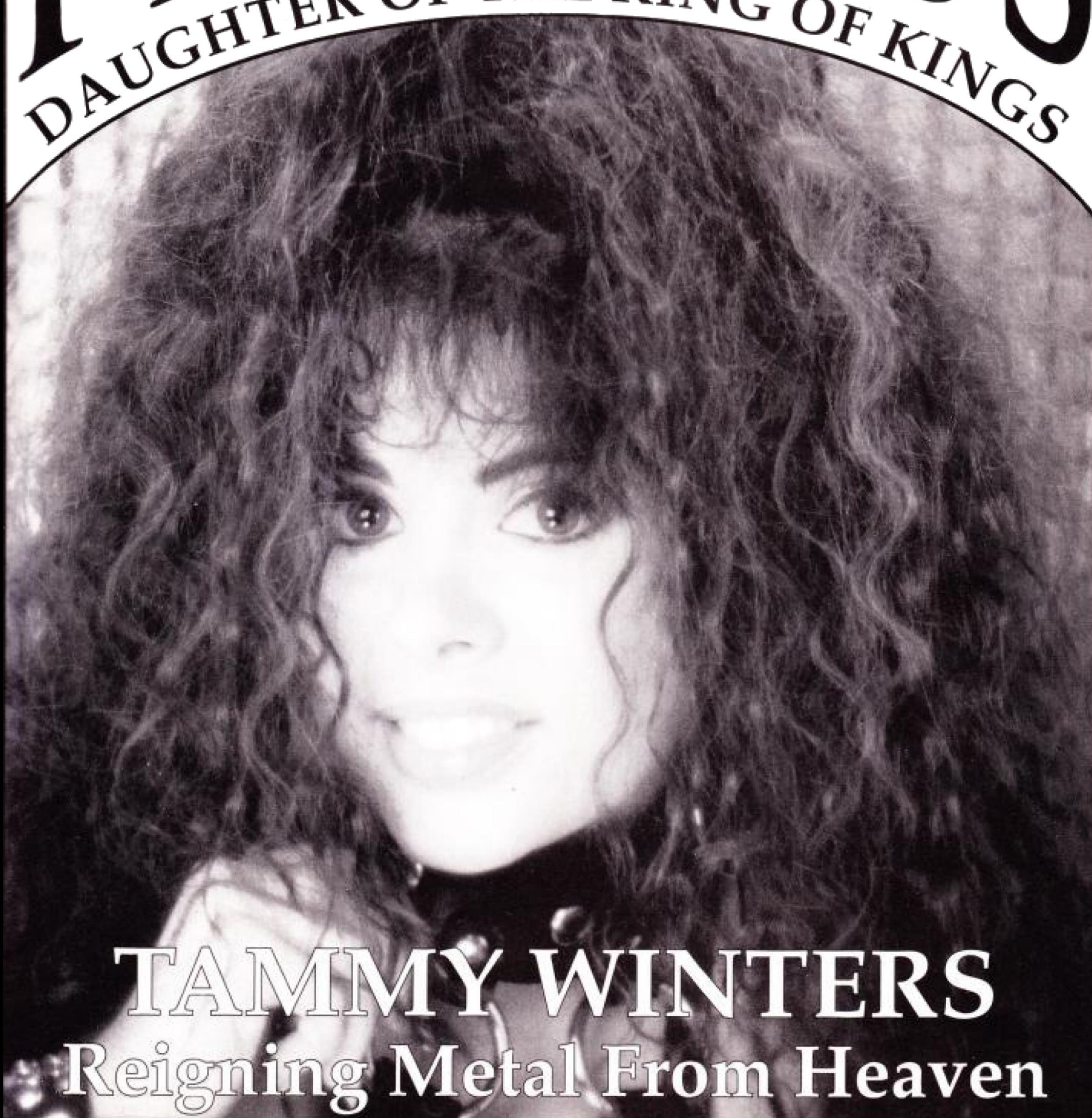
Jimmy Brown tells us that **Deliverance** has signed to **WAL**. The band is scheduled to play in Europe and South America and plans on recording a new album for a Winter '95 release.

Submission Blue (formerly **Mercy**) has recorded its sophomore release, titled *Chill*. The project is scheduled for release this June and is reported to be harder and edgier than their debut recording.

By the time you read this, **Circle of Dust** will have had a record release party at The Grand in Manhattan, New York and a week later opened for **Overkill**. The *Brainchild* album debuted on the **CMJ** charts at #64 and #13 on the **CMJ** "commercial chart." Reviews are scheduled in several mainstream magazines, including *Pulse* and *Alternative Press*. The band has finished filming their video for "Telltale

PRINCESS

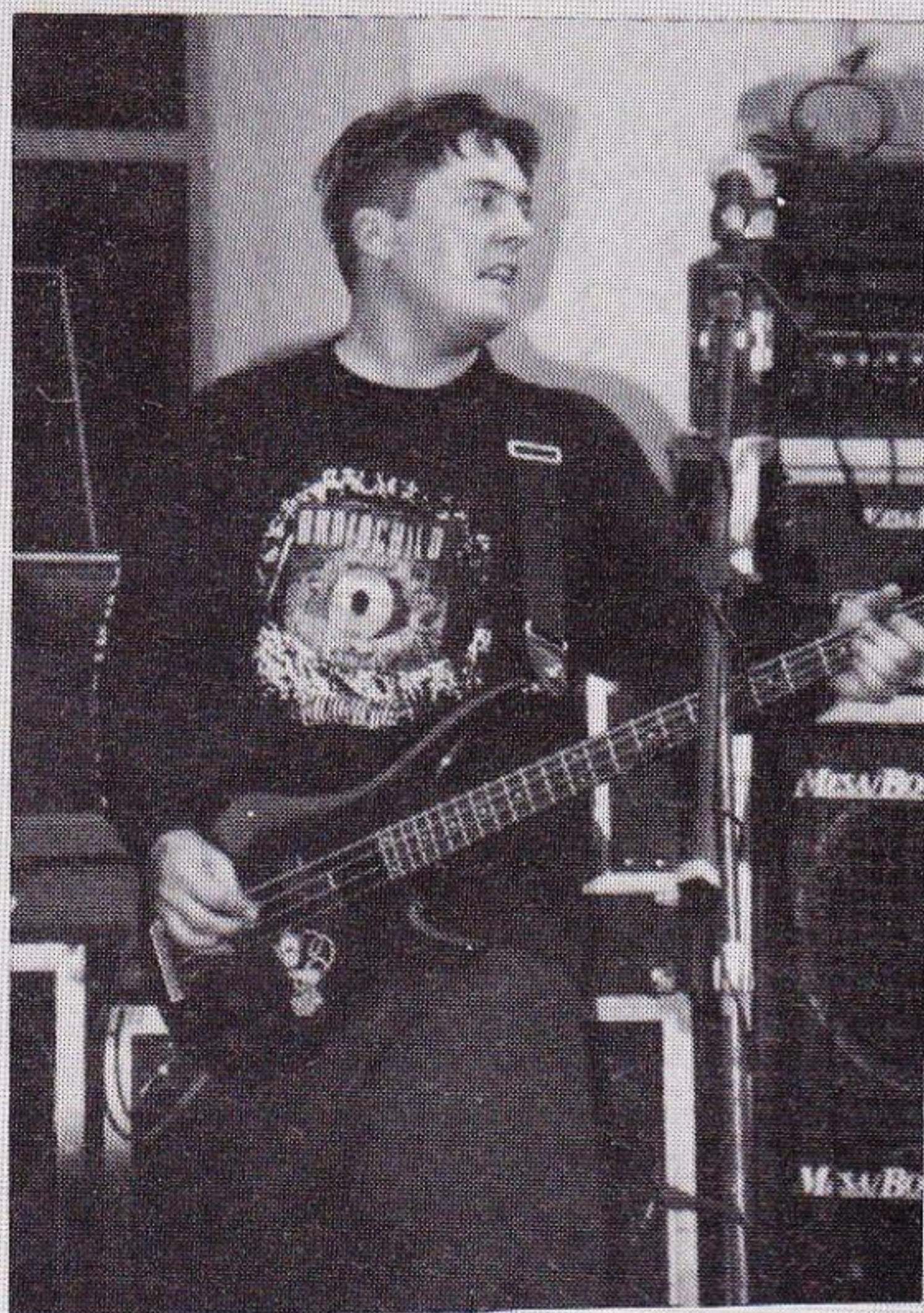
DAUGHTER OF THE KING OF KINGS



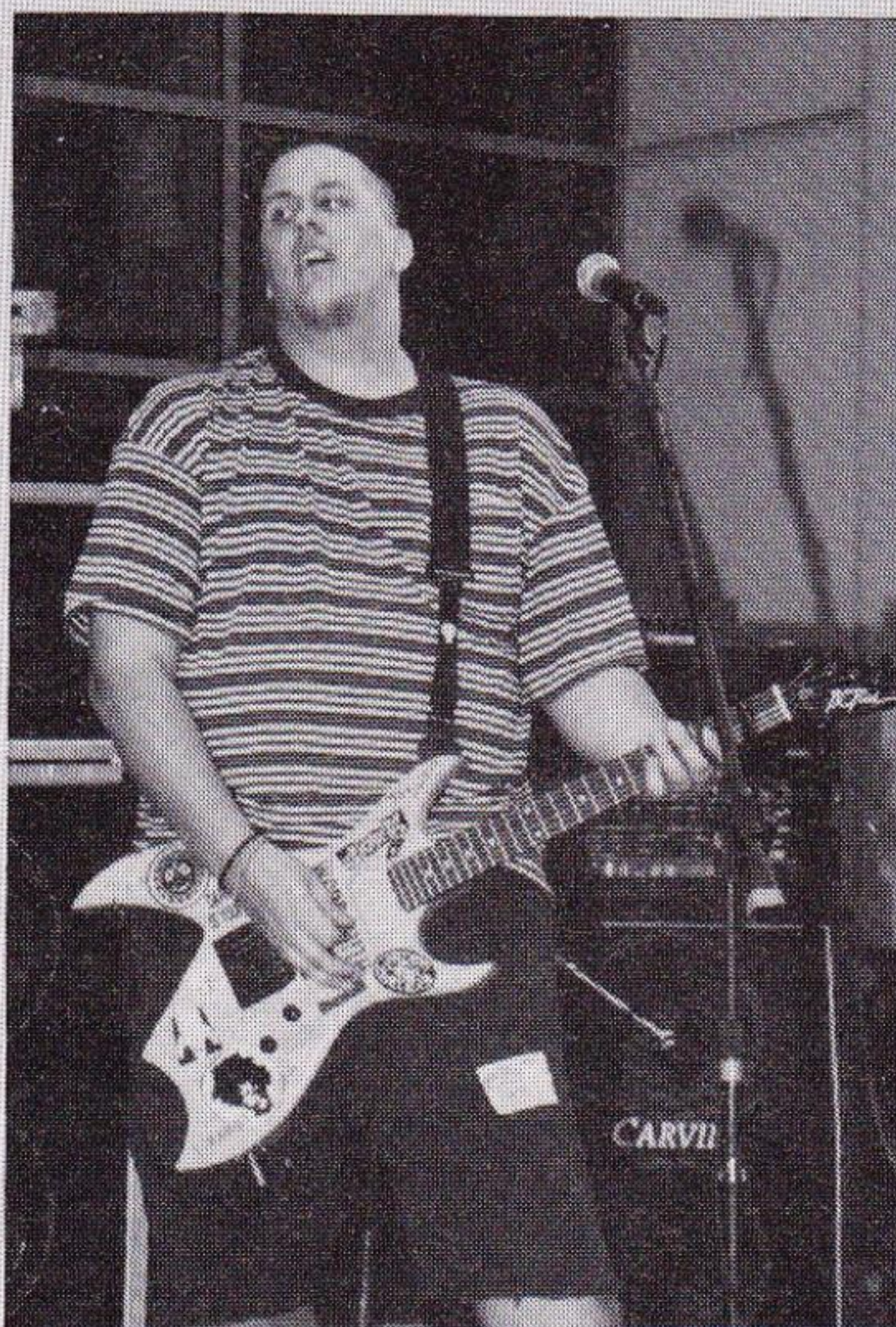
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"Where did Jyro & Jerome go?" asks Bryan.



"I dunno!" replies Jeff. (Photos © Larry Bolen)

Crime," which was shot on location at the Tennessee State Prison outside Nashville. To write and request that MTV features this video on *120 Minutes* and *Headbanger's Ball*, address letters to both programs at: 1515 Broadway, 24th Floor, New York NY 10036.

The nominations for this year's Dove Awards in the "Metal Recorded Song of the Year" category are: "Dancing on a Volcano" by **Tamplin**; "Dead End Drive" by **Holy Soldier**; "Enshrined" by **Brainchild**; "Psychedelic Super Jesus" by **Bride**; "Testify" by **Tamplin**; and "You're My Lord" by **Whitecross**. In the "Metal Album of the Year" category, they are: *Dimensions* by **Believer**; *Fathom* by **Mortal**; *Killed By Cain*; *Learn* by **Deliverance**; *Mindwarp* by **Brainchild**; and *Tamplin*.

Whitecross has signed to R.E.X. Records. It looks like the big announcement of **Rex Carroll**'s replacement cannot be made this issue, as the one person most likely to join has not. Seems that it didn't "click" musically. Most likely some six-stringer will fill the spot soon, as the band is headed to enter the studio soon with producer **Jimmy Lee Sloas** (who's in a band with guitarist **Dale Oliver** called **The Ministers**, who were signed to Hollywood Records -- but that's another story!) to record an album that's supposed to hit the streets in late July.

Six Feet Deep has also signed to R.E.X. Records. Their debut album should hit in June. The band is headlining a "hardcore set" on Saturday, July 2nd at Cornerstone. Included on the bill are: **The Blamed**, **The Clergy**, **Jesus Freaks**, and **Focused**.

Speaking of **The Clergy**, **Jim Swanson** and wife celebrate the arrival of

their new son, **Noah**. Both mom and son are doing fine.

R.E.X. (the label we profiled this issue) is filming a "REX-u-mentary" at this year's Cornerstone Festival. The *DEMO-lition II* album should be released this month.

There will be a "Tooth & Nail Weekend" in Bartlesville, Oklahoma on June 24th and 25th. Playing over the weekend will be **Chatterbox**, **Focused**, **Unashamed**, **Wish For Eden**, **Starflyer 59** and **Plankeye**. For more info, call 918-337-0500.

Patriot Records is now being distributed by **Spring Arbor**. Look for *All Hail The Power* and *Premium Cuts* in your local Christian bookstore now. The *Blood* album by **Red Sea** is finished and ready for a July release.

Former **Crucified** drummer **Jim Chaffin** has joined **The Blamed**.

The "Rock For Life" concert went off well with **Precious Death**, **E.D.L.** (Everyday Life), **The Blamed**, **Plankeye** and **Focused**. MTV News did a short interview with the concert promoter.

Former **Badlands** and **Die Happy** bassist **Greg Chaisson** has recorded a new solo album for **Frontline**, which should be out by the time you read this.

Scaterd Few's *Out Of The Attic* album is going to be released on CD by **Flying Tart Records**.

Z-Music's "Brimstone Chronicles" is back on the air after a brief rest. The show includes a "Heaven's Metal Update" with the latest news and the occasional quick CD review.

King's Road members **Marc Intravia** and **Eve Selis** recently played a convention in Florida with headliner **Elton**

John.

Frontline is releasing a **Mortal** video of "Rift," which was directed by **Eric Hannah** (Extreme Attitude/Truth Clothing). The filming was done in a variety of places, from studio scenes to atop a 1,000 foot pillar only 50 feet wide in the Nevada desert. "A place where men carry guns and ride horses," comments **Eric Hannah**. They had to be airlifted to the spot, arrived at 2 a.m. amid frigid temperatures, woke at 3 a.m. for that "campfire style" breakfast and shot footage at the 6 a.m. sunrise. There are plans for a new **Mortal** in the works... A press release recently put out some surprising news: **Jyro** and **Jerome** of **Mortal** announced that the band will be breaking up. "We have for a long time now been seeking the Lord's will through constant prayer, petition, and obedience. We feel very blessed to have been able to serve Christ through the years, by sharing the Word in concert and in album recordings. It is therefore with heavy hearts that we must announce as of December 31, 1994 'Mortal' will permanently come to an end. The only explanation we can offer you is that God is in control, and He has spoken to our hearts. He is now leading us into new and different areas, and we will follow. Please understand that this is very difficult for us, but bringing **Mortal** to an end is something that must, and will, happen. However, before **Mortal** does come to an end, we very much want to see and fellowship with you one last time. We invite everyone to come out and see us on our 1994 'Mortal Farewell Tour.'" We're sure that these guys will stay busy. Recently both **Jyro** and **Jerome** produced the latest **Star Flyer 59** album under the name "Blood."

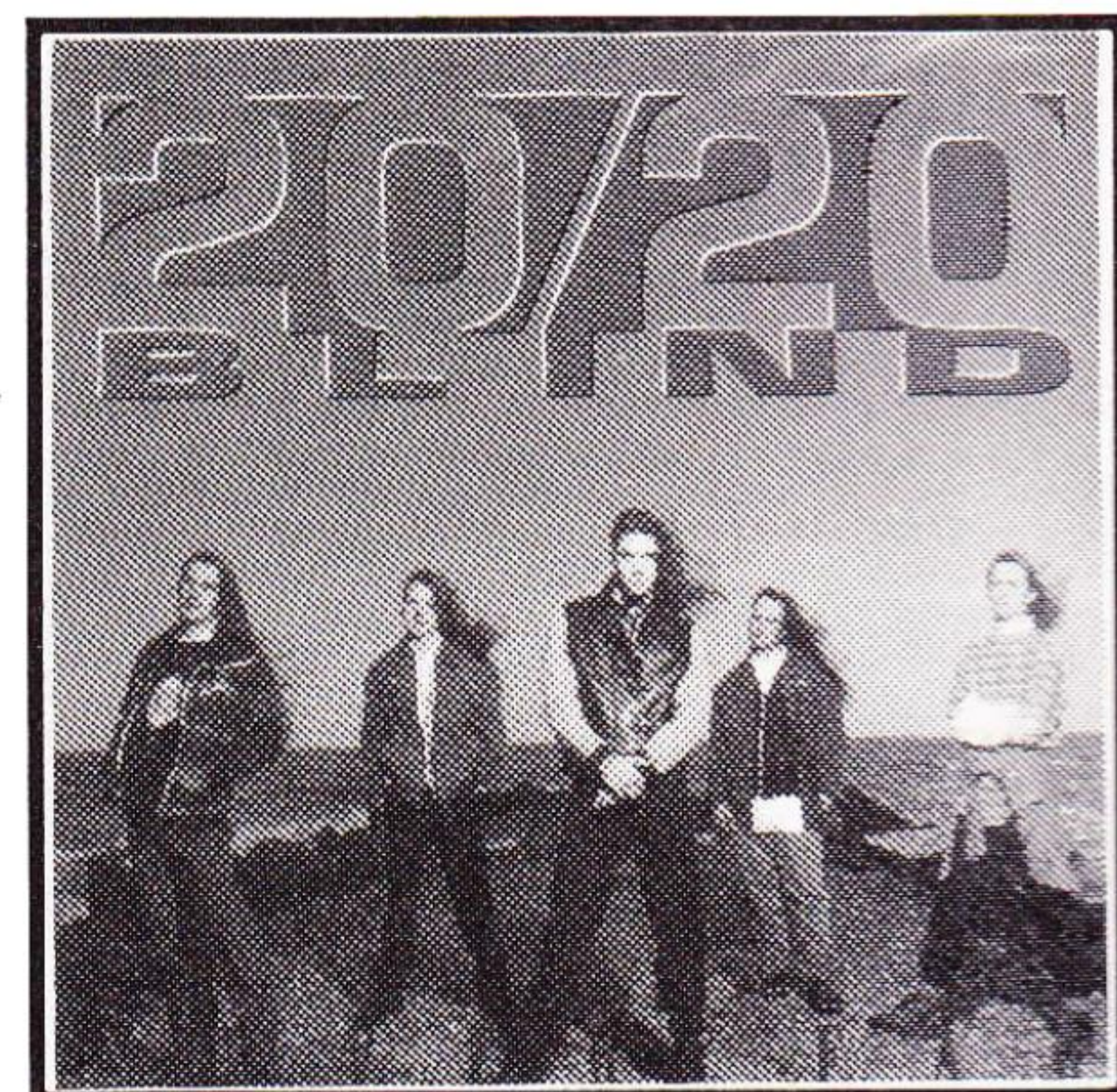
During **GMA Week** there will be a hot show with **Bill Kramer & Tuesday Night**, **Jimmy A**, **LSU**, **Man of Clay**, **Cauz 'N Efekt**, **Cry Out**, and **Crashdog**. This will take place on Tuesday night, April 26th.

Greg Chaisson (ex-**Badlands**, ex-**Die Happy**) is working on a solo album for **Frontline**. It's called *It's About Time* and is blues rock.

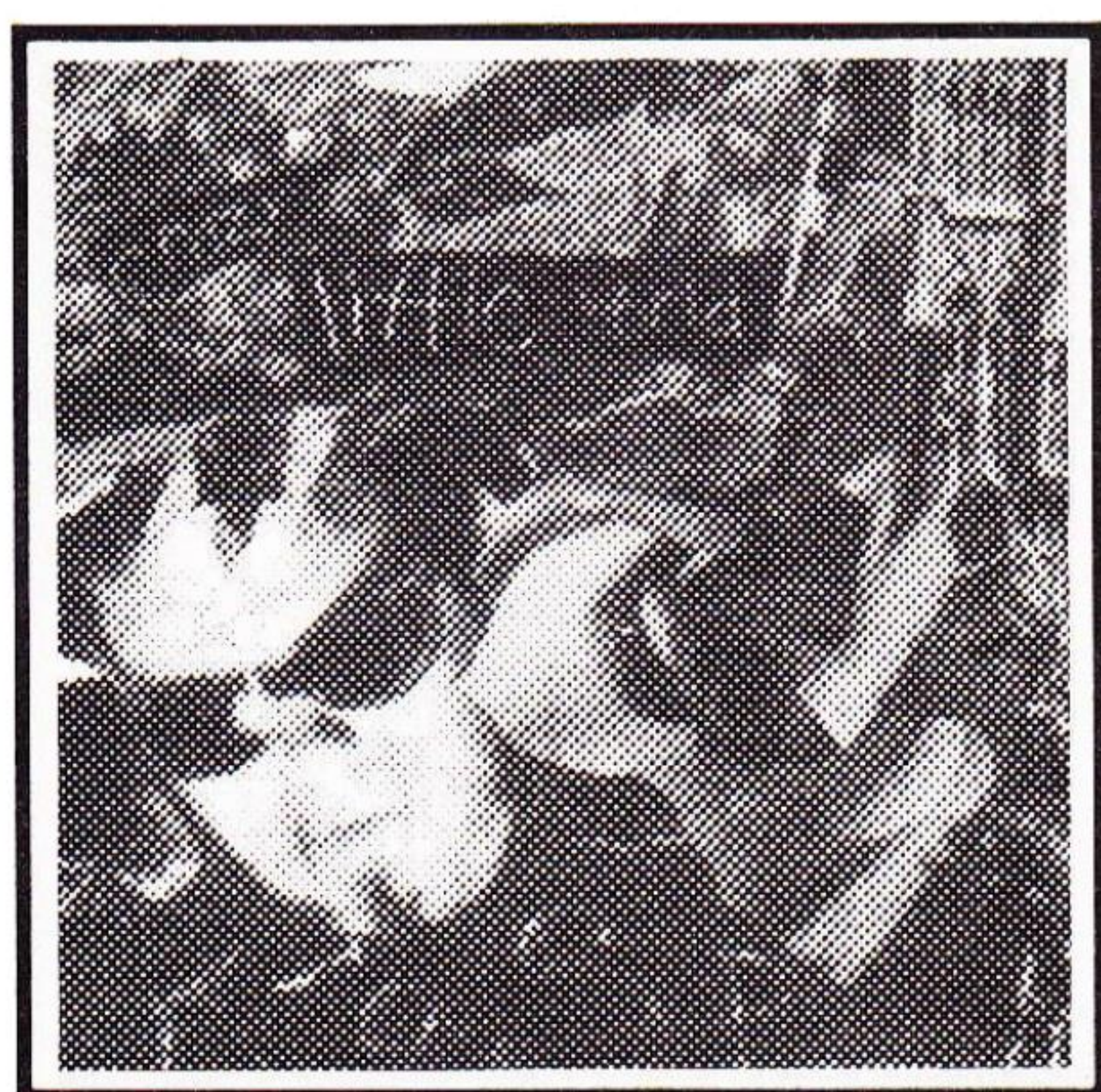
Idle Cure has a new member in guitarist **Glenn Pearce** (formerly with **Liaison**).

Swedish writer **Staffan Gustafsson** reports that **Veni Domine** "finally have some kind of a record deal now" and will release a new album in a few months. **Solid Rock Festival** is a new Christian hard rock festival in Stockholm, which will take place on June 4. Confirmed bands are: **Veni Domine**, **Modest Attraction**, **Loudamus** and maybe

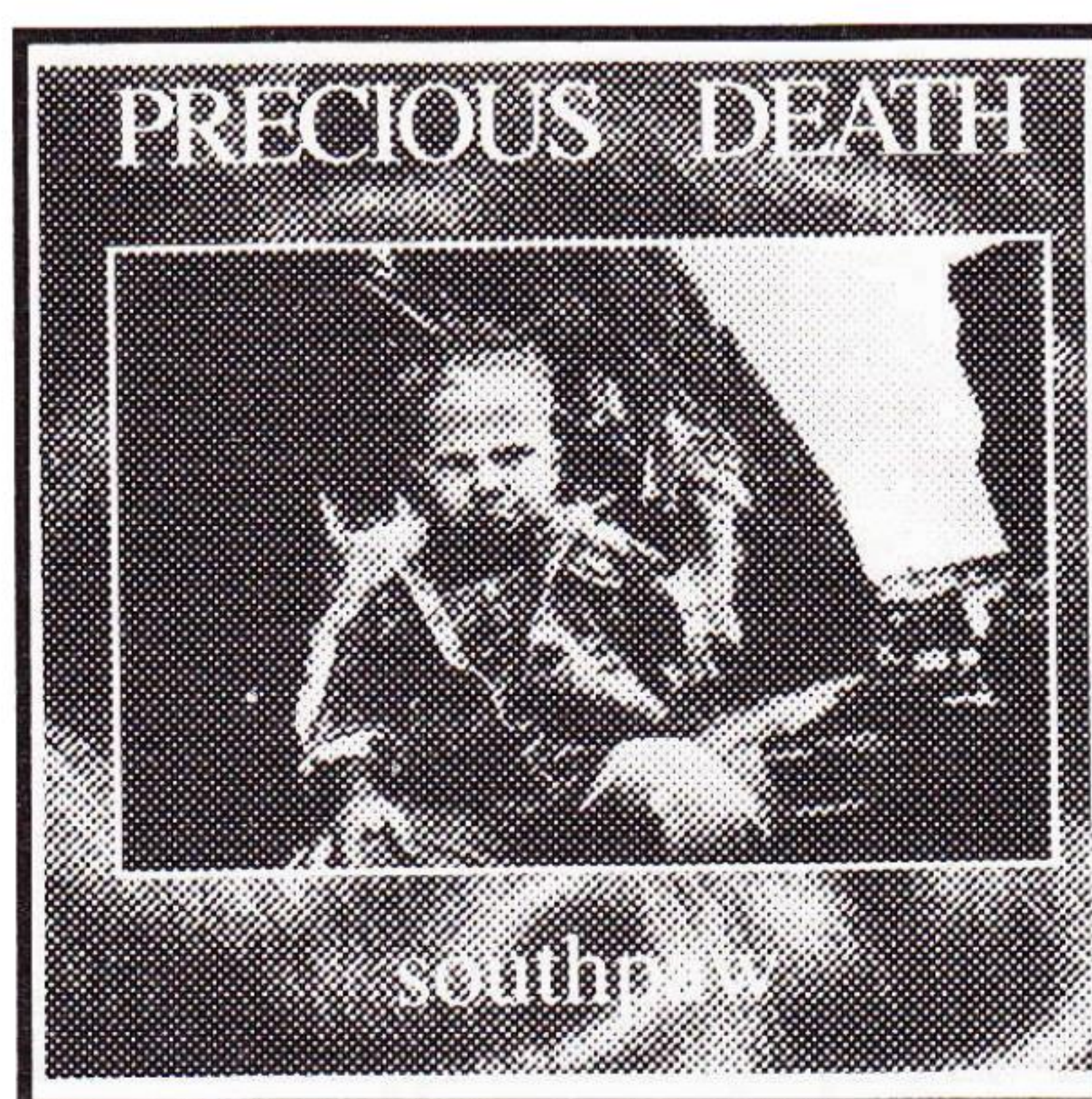
Music To Lift Your Spirit



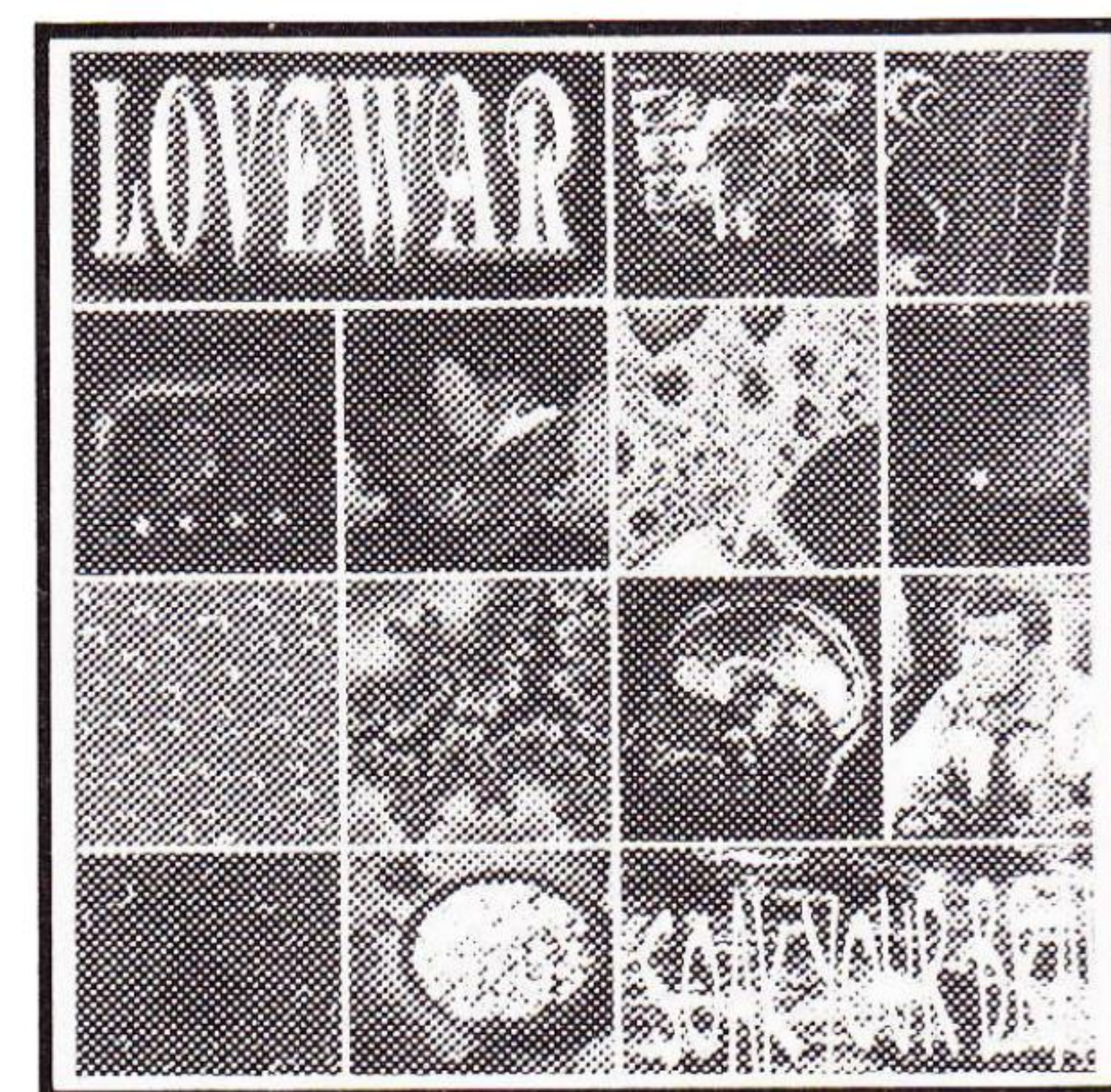
20/20 Blind
Intersound Christian



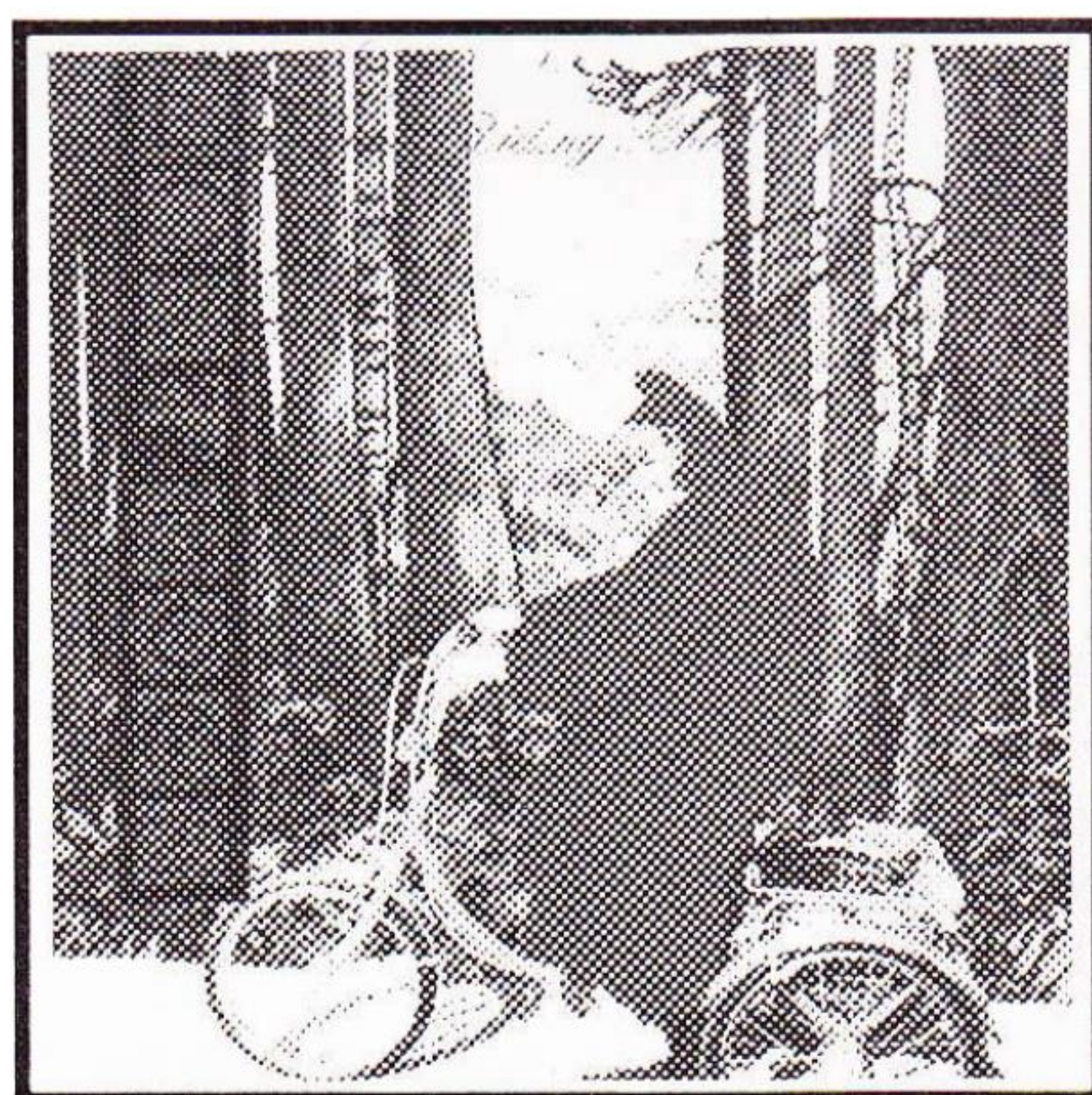
Rose
Crazy Little World
Intense



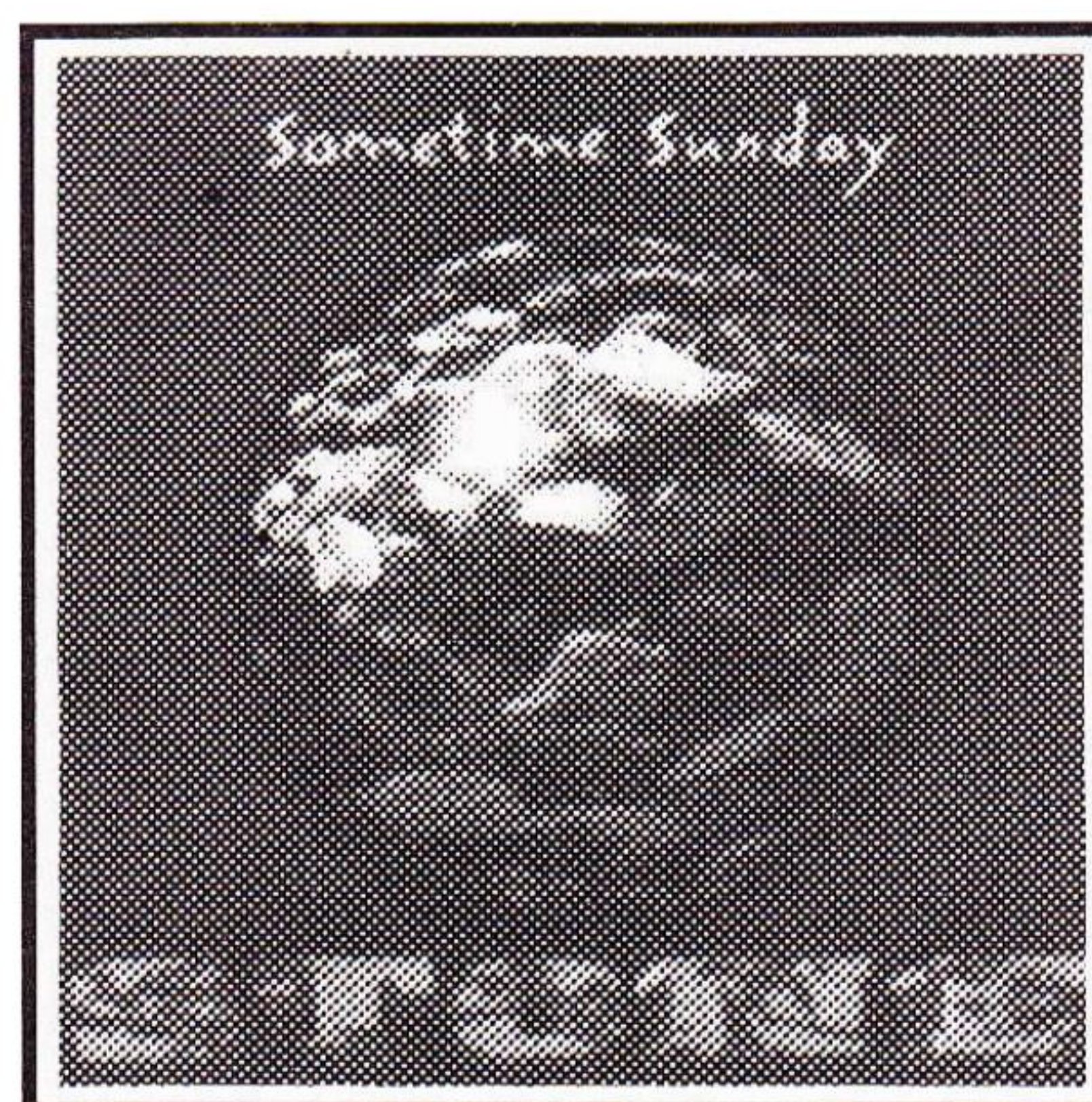
Precious Death
Southpaw
Metro One



Lovewar
Soak Your Brain
Word



Lost Dogs
Little Red Riding Hood
Word



Sometime Sunday
Stone
Tooth & Nail



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Jerusalem.

Over 800 people showed up at Theophilus Bookstore in Houston recently for the **Imagine This** record release party.

Seraiah has recently changed its name to **Kid Promise**. The band just received an exclusive Gibson endorsement for Eptiphone acoustic guitars. The band's newest effort, *My Generation*, is scheduled for release this month. Guitarist **Quinton Gibson** and wife **Wendy** are expecting their first baby as this issue goes to press.

Steve Rowe of Mortification adds a good perspective to the situation that has arisen around the self-confessed blatant rebellion of a former Christian grindcore vocalist. "Some heavy things are going down in the lives of some ex-prominent Christian musicians, even to the point that some are denying Christ totally -- not just in actions, but also in words. It's time for us all to wake up and see that some people are falling for Satan's lies, but we need to have God's maturity and wisdom through all of this.

"If you receive a letter from or meet a backslidden Christian musician, deal with the situation maturely. Praise God for the good that the person achieved for God's kingdom. You see, God can't intervene against man's free will. If someone whose foundation in God was shakey, but they played shredding music...sure, that music can be used for God's glory and probably did... Don't go trashing CD's or gossiping about the person. Simply pray for the person. God works in weird ways. People have been saved by a drunk witnessing to them or an immoral evangelist at an outreach. Let's be real about this: these people in these situations were saved and, if you got saved through the ministry of a Christian musician or band who has lost it in God, praise God that your salvation is real!

"Christian metal bands are made up of human beings. Don't be as the world is... Don't don't worship Christian metal bands. Worship God! Human beings always have the potential to let you down. If someone else you look up to falls, you need to have your eyes focused enough on God so as not to let that circumstance effect you. Let's all get our heads into God's Word and pray and get unity and revival back into Christian music."

Steve and Mortification covet your prayers as they tour Europe next month amid death threats from satanists and skinheads.

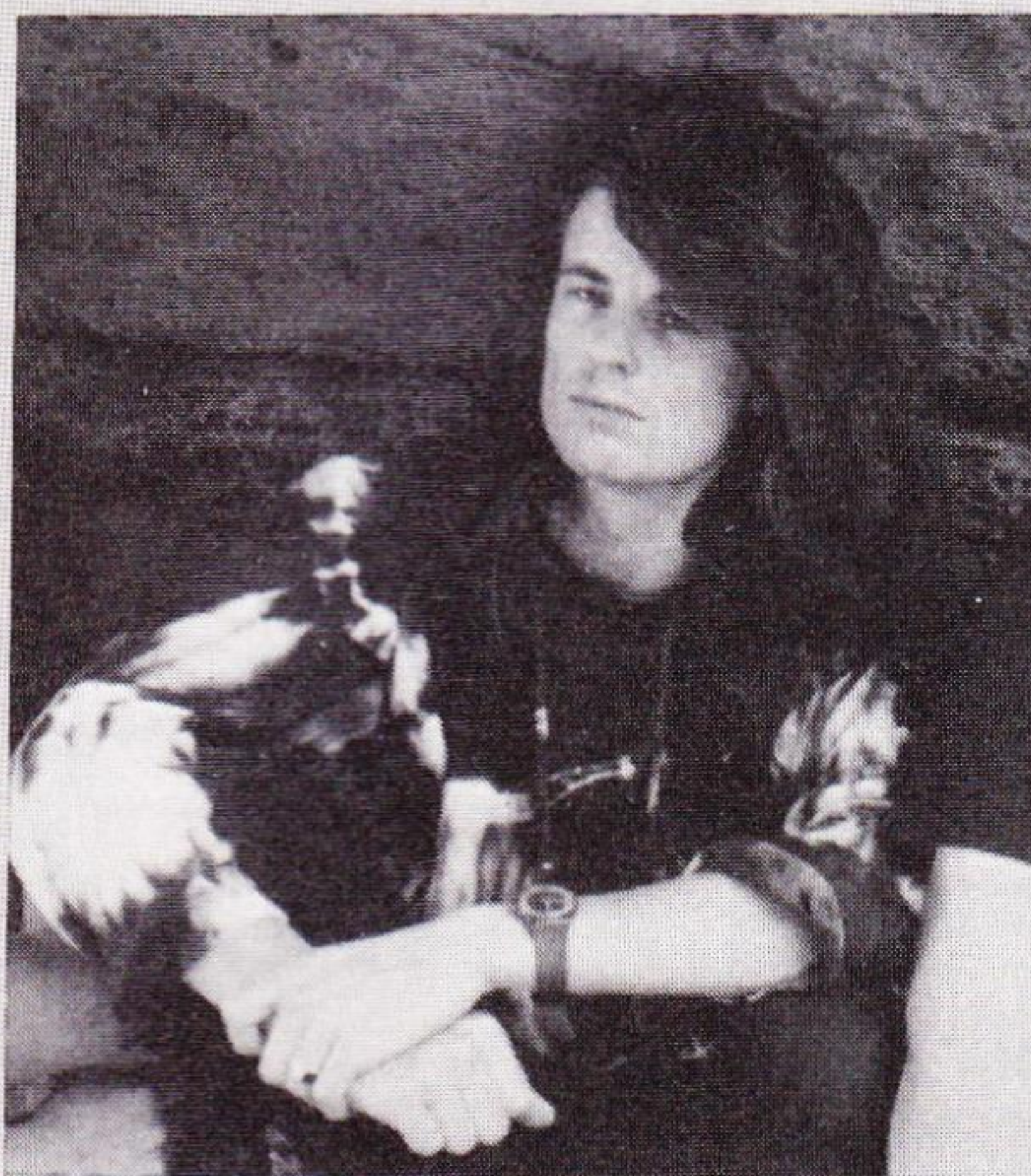
The lineup for this year's Texas Rock Fest (July 8 & 9) includes: Mortification, **Carpe Diem**, **Conversion Factor**, **Primary Censor**, **Red Ink**, **Iron Faith**, **Lust Control**, **Slamcat**, **Final Judgement**,

Axes, Johnny Q. Public, and Slavetrade.

Battalion's debut album, *Runaway*, is being released this spring on Moonlite Records. The band promotes the National Runaway Switchboard at their concerts and is donating a percentage of each album sale to the switchboard.

Sabaoth is a Brazilian band which lists its influences as, "Stryper, Novella, Van Halen, Whitecross and Mr. Big." The band sings in English and has a 6-song demo out, including a cover of the Stryper tune "My Love I'll Always Show." The band can be contacted at: White Metal Fan Club, c/o Osmario M. Mota, Rua 12 N. o 80 Jardim, Melina, Cep 13056-138, Campinas Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The Pure Rock Report, the industry trade and chart paper which ceased publication last winter, has resumed publishing thanks to new editor Michael Buckingham of Columbus, Ohio. He can be reached at (614) 864-1333.



Steve Rowe

Zuriel is entering the studio this spring for their second album project. They hope to release it by the end of this year. Proposed title for the album is *Virtual Reality*.

Beheaded is the name of a grindcore band playing gigs alongside mainstream bands in Mexico City, Mexico. Many of the Christians nearby are hoping that several of the American Christian metal bands would play dates down there. To contact the editor of a Christian metal zine there, write: Iram Gomez, **Tumba Vacia**, Apartado Postal 16-290, 02011 Mexico, D.F.

Brook Hovland, formerly of **Erika** (reviewed in HM #38), has put together a new ministry based out of Spokane, Washington with **Cliff Gregston** on guitar and **Derek Davis** on drums. The name of the group is **Ambassador 94**. They are currently playing in and around the three state area of Washington, Idaho and Montana and are finishing up their

first EP, which will be out before summer. For more info, write: Brook Hovland, W. 2004 College, Spokane, WA 99201.

Oracle has a new singer and plans on a new 8-song album release later this summer.

Chuck Turner has left **Sardonyx**.

Bands wishing to get info on the follow-up to *in the land of milk and cookies* may write to Mootown Records at: PO Box 724973, Atlanta GA 31139.

David A. Walker apparently puts on a wild show, performing metal solos on guitar, sax, flute, organ, blues harp, bass, synthesizer, as well as several different vocals styles. Yeah, but does he ride that motorcycle and skateboard on stage?

The Terminal Generation is currently recording its full length album, tentatively titled *Hate Without Reason*. The band recently added keyboardist Jesse "Blowfish" Morales to its industrial death funk sound. For info, write: PO Box 1906, Monrovia CA 91017.

Empty Tomb has a brand new tape titled *Welcome To The Human Race*. They're at PO Box 20714, Salem OR 97307-0714.

Eric Blair is looking for all-new band members and management. For Blaring Out tapes, send \$6 to: 13332 Shepherd's Way, Santa Ana CA 92705. It'll have "Hitler's In Hell," "Enemies of the Cross" and "Porno People" on it.

Ash Black has a new six-song tape out called *Thrashcan*. For info, write: 7831 E. Mary Dr, Tucson AZ 85730.

Deathless has a new EP out called *Judgement Ignorance*. It's available for \$6 from: Carlos, 35th St. P-9, Sans-Souci, Bakyamon PR 00957.

The Devil's Advocate editor Keith Day has changed the name of his zine. It's now **URGENCY!!**. Issue #4 of **Sacred Rock** magazine is the last issue until further notice. This is likely to be a temporary stop.

Herb Kane is putting together a petition called "The MTV Challenge." Interested parties may write Herb at: PO Box 742, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.

Life Fight Metal Service has stopped selling merchandise. Picking up the slack in Switzerland is Whitemetal Versand Release, c/o Roland Kyburz, Blumenrain 6, CH-5502 Hunzenschwil, Switzerland.

Eternity is currently in the studio working on a new 12-song album that will most likely be released under A.R.T. Distribution later this year. Vocalist **Don Record** has left the band to help out a church in St. Charles, Missouri.

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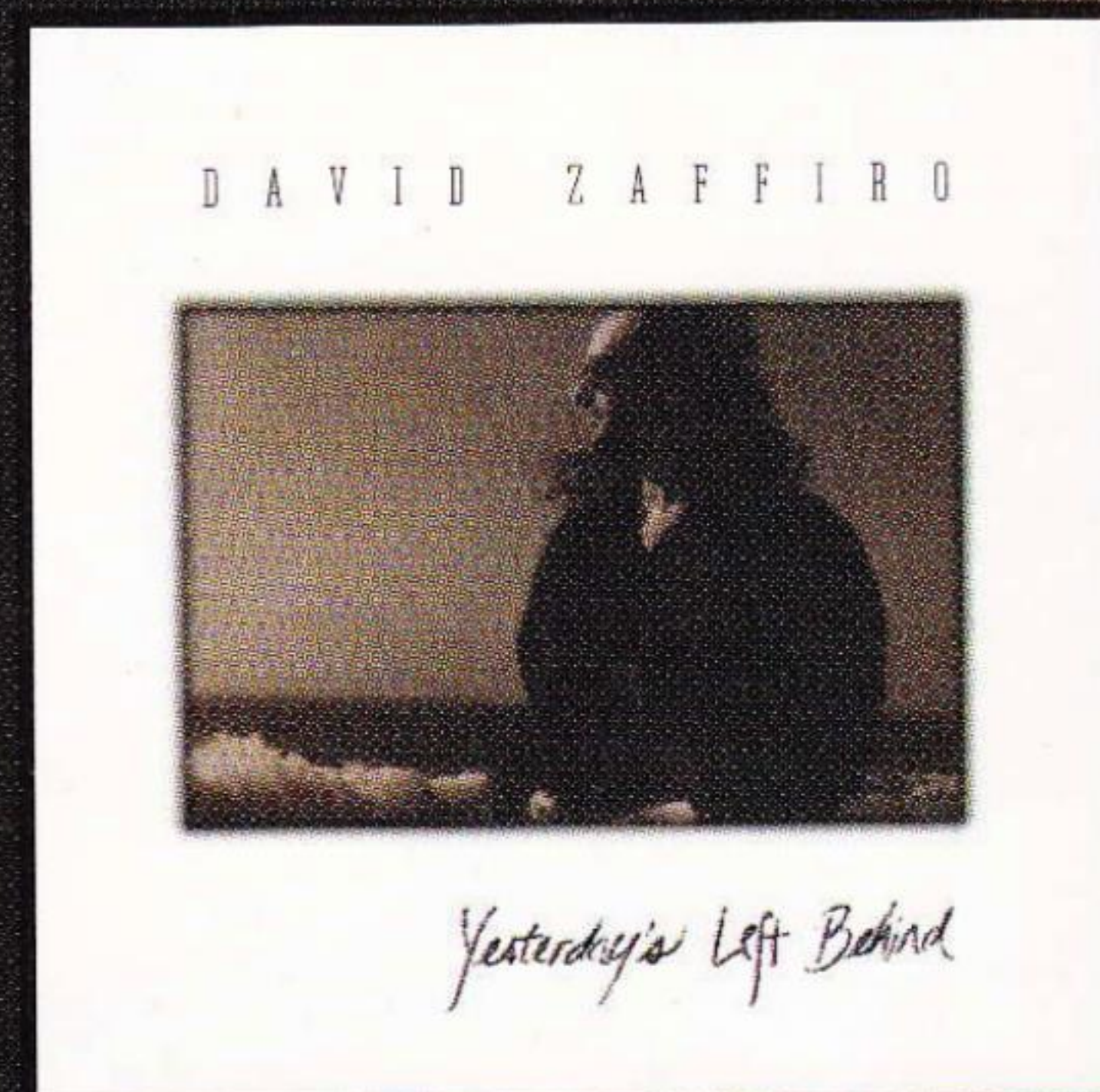
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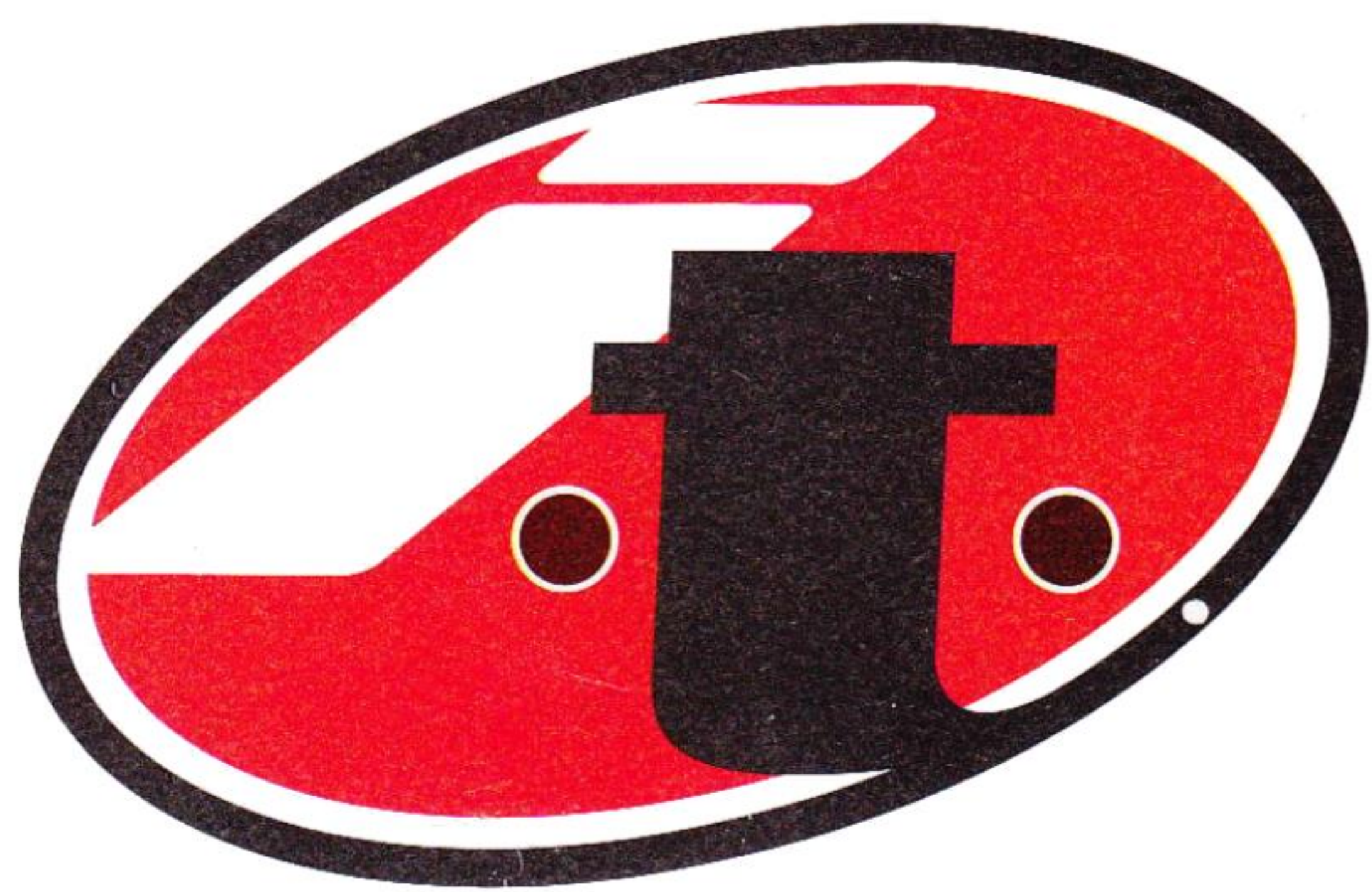
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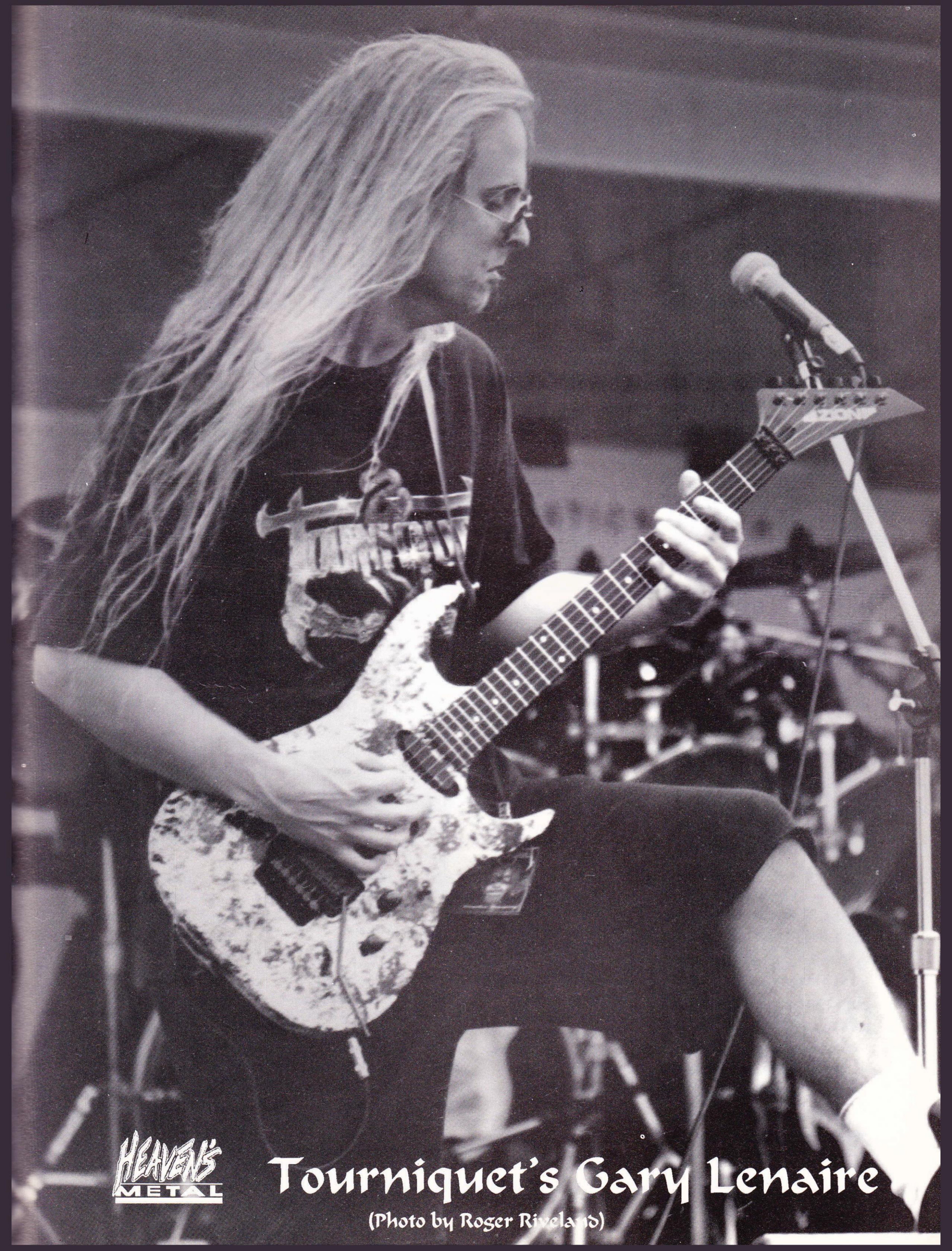
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Tourniquet's Gary Lenaire

(Photo by Roger Riveland)

Tour Dates

These dates are booked well in advance, so please check with the numbers listed for confirmation of the concert. If the mood strikes you, send in your review of the show...it may get printed in Heaven's Metal!

BRIDE		
4/30	Bartlesville OK	918-337-0500
5/6	Greenville IL	
5/15	Dayton TN	615-775-6513
5/21	Winkler Canada	204-325-9783
5/28	Aurora IL	708-859-8414
6/4	Owosso MI	517-723-6891
7/1	Cornerstone Fest	
77'S & PRAYER CHAIN		
4/29	Detroit MI	313-485-4636
4/30	Harrisburg PA	717-691-6036
5/1	Nyack NY	914-358-1718
5/2	Boston MA	508-346-4577
5/3	Richmond VA	510-295-1002
5/4	Virginia Beach VA	804-459-5724
5/6	Charleston SC	803-720-8040
5/7	Atlanta GA	404-319-7064
5/8	Tampa FL	813-447-9673
5/10	Chattanooga TN	615-265-6389

5/11	Memphis TN	901-278-6982
5/12	Austin TX	512-707-8324
5/13	Houston TX	713-367-9074
5/14	Dallas TX	817-459-0760
5/15	Bartlesville OK	918-337-0500
	77'S (only)	
5/28	Seattle WA	206-938-0243
TOURNIQUET		
6/10	Dallas TX	214-497-1469
MORTIFICATION		
6/3	Potsdam, Germany	45 74 830678
6/4	Verdao, Germany	"
6/5	Muchlen, Germany	"
6/6	Hamburg, Germany	"
6/11	Utrecht, Holland	"
6/13	Berlin, Germany	"
6/15	Osnabruck, Germany	"
6/17	Andernach, Germany	"
6/18	Vofsborg, Germany	"
6/19	Reutlingen, Germany	"
6/28	Chicago IL	
7/5	Bartlesville OK	918-337-0500
7/7	Dallas TX	214-497-1469
7/8	Austin TX	512-264-2994
7/9	Austin TX	512-264-2994
7/10	Vancouver, Canada	604-533-9629

5/19	San Diego CA	312-989-2351
5/20	Santa Barbara CA	312-989-2351
5/21	Marysville CA	916-743-6720
5/28	McMinnville CA	503-472-2883
5/29	Vancouver CAN	604-420-8025
5/30	Vancouver CAN	604-246-9800
HARDCORE '94		
JESUS FREAKS,		
CRASHDOG,		
THE CLERGY		
5/3	Pittsburgh PA	412-343-6209
5/4	Cleveland OH	216-886-6740
5/5	Columbus OH	614-575-1322
5/6	Detroit MI	810-691-0559
5/7	Grand Rapids MI	616-245-4338
5/14	Evansville IL	812-468-4283
5/15	Minneapolis MN	612-379-2858
5/21	Vancouver BC	604-533-9629
5/22	Seattle WA	206-933-8066
5/26	Sacramento CA	916-846-0835
5/28	Phoenix AZ	602-921-8939
5/29	Tucson AZ	602-629-9211
5/30	Albuquerque NM	505-881-7711
HM		

Hard Music Radio & Sales Charts

METAL RADIO CHART

Here are the TOP 20 "WAY LOUD" SINGLES reprinted courtesy <u>The Rock Music Report</u> For more information on <u>The Rock Music Report</u> , contact Sarah Mossman at 615-833-4451). These singles were reported on March 14th:	
1	Future Mind
2	Believer
3	Learn
4	Deliverance
5	Father To Son
6	Detritus
7	Fly
8	Wish For Eden
9	Renouncement
10	Betrayal
11	Skeezix's Dilemma
12	Tourniquet
13	Religion
14	Jesus Freaks
15	Walk The Line
16	Killed By Cain

9	Fallout
10	Bride
11	Absence
12	Focused
13	Cranial Tyrant
14	Brainchild
15	Purity
16	The Clergy
17	Self Inflict
18	Circle of Dust
19	Who Am I?
20	Deliverance
21	Mystery Train
22	Tamplin
23	One Tree Hill
24	Mortal
25	Fallen
26	Rose
27	Atonement
28	Living Sacrifice
29	Dust Through A Fan
30	Bride
31	Sister Wisdom
32	Guardian

ROCK/METAL SALES

13	<i>Imagine This</i>
14	<i>Imagine This</i>
15	<i>PASSAFIST</i>
16	<i>PASSAFIST</i>
17	<i>Revolution Mind</i>
18	<i>Magdalen</i>
19	<i>Starflyer 59</i>
20	<i>Starflyer 59</i>
21	<i>Circle of Dust</i>
22	<i>CIRCLE OF DUST</i>
23	<i>Snakes ...</i>
24	<i>BRIDE</i>
25	<i>Mindsize</i>
26	<i>poor old lu</i>
27	<i>Reach of Love</i>
28	<i>REZ</i>
Reporting stores for the February/March report are: Sonshine Books & Gifts, Mission Viejo CA; Sonship, Newport Beach CA; Triune Books & Bibles, Cincinnati OH; Loaves & Fishes, Vista CA; Ministries For Christ, Austin TX; Theophilus, Bellaire TX; Valley Book & Bible, Van Nuys CA; and Shepherd Shoppe, San Antonio TX.	
HM	

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ALBUM REVIEWS

IDLE CURE

Eclipse

Salt Music

Idle Cure has always been balancing the finer sounds of keyboard-laced pop music and guitar-driven arena rock. They've hit big with hits like "Breakaway" and "Pray," but haven't laid down 10 consistent tracks on one album (in my book) after their debut. This album, the band's fifth, finds Idle Cure in comeback mode after waiting three years since its last.

Producer Billy Smiley steered the band in a little more of a heartland sound, while still retaining that polished Idle Cure personality typified by Bill Baumgart's production. This album finds the band making the best music of its career.

Aggression runs high in "Burning Gomorrah," which slows down from its raunchy rhythm only for the stacked harmonies of the chorus: "Temples are shouting/ People are turning/ Morals are melting to clay/ Cities on fire/ From rage and desire/ For sin there's a price to be paid/ Burning Gomorrah."

Recorded mostly in Nashville, the album sports an impressive list of guest musicians. Mr. Guitar hero Dann Huff (Giant) adds his fiery fretwork, Jon Knox (White Heart, Adam Again) lays down some drumming, and there's Bob Carlisle, Chris Rodriguez and Billy Smiley on BGV's. You'll hear traces of White Heart influence here, as well as some cool steel guitar additives a la Mr. Mister/Chris Isaaks/Dire Straits. Overall, it's a very clean album that's a good listen. One of the better moments comes in "Bring Me Through The Day," with it's Van Halen-like string plucking rhythm.

Lyrically, Idle Cure doesn't stray too far from the

formulas that've been successful for them. Themes like love being a decision and not just a warm 'n' fuzzy feeling ("Two Hearts"), the "I owe God my everything" attitude ("The Only Thing"), and the celebration of the goodness and healing power of God ("Living Water") are edifying to the believer and offer some hope and arguments for the unbeliever to consider the Truth.

While Idle Cure doesn't eclipse their entire musical catalog with this release, they certainly have justified the choice of doing another album. This stuff is worth a listen.

--Doug Van Pelt

MORTIFICATION

Live Planetarium (Video)

Intense

Even non-fans of Mortification will dig this live video, because the footage is stellar. Hats off to producer extraordinaire Neil Johnson on a job well done! The lights are killer, there's tons of good camera angles, and the sound is awesome. I believe it was all shot on film, because the quality is fantastic. Like the "soundtrack" live CD, this is the clearest, most discernable Mortification recording yet.

The raging Black Stump Festival crowd was fired up, adding the energy that takes the show one notch further. There's some interview footage rolled in that reveals more of who Mortification is. This is a great video. It is the best live Christian metal video ever released -- yes, it surpasses the Stryper *Live In Japan* video footage.

--DV

DAVID ZAFFIRO

Yesterday's Left Behind

Frontline

David's fourth solo outing is a clean offering of polished "adult rock" (that's

the stuff your under-50 parents will listen to in their car). Instead of investing his guitar skill in bombastic rhythms and soaring solos, David goes after an almost Larry Carlton-like clean guitar sound. There's not really a jazz touch to it, just a very clean vibe.

The standout cut here, especially for the hard music minded, is the song written and sung by Steven Patrick (ex-Holy Soldier). "Winds of September" seems rather personal, as if explaining the rough departure Steven may have had from the band. "It was a lonely time as I remember/ When I was forsaken by my closest friends." It's an ironic collaboration, considering David's production chores for both Holy Soldier releases. It comes off sounding as a Holy Soldier tune -- although you don't hear double guitar leads.

The instrumental, "Bottle Tap," is an interesting foray into Texas blues sounding material. It's a pretty cool tune -- almost a "Blue Ice II." In fact, I would compare the album as a whole as closest sounding to *In Scarlet Storm*. *The Other Side* had a definite slant of heavy mood music a la Pink Floyd, and *Surrender Absolute* had a laid-back arena sound to it (thanks to vocalist Randall Waller).

While filled with good playing and nice sonics, I don't think I'm going to remember these songs for a long time. Don't quit making albums, though, Davey!

--DV

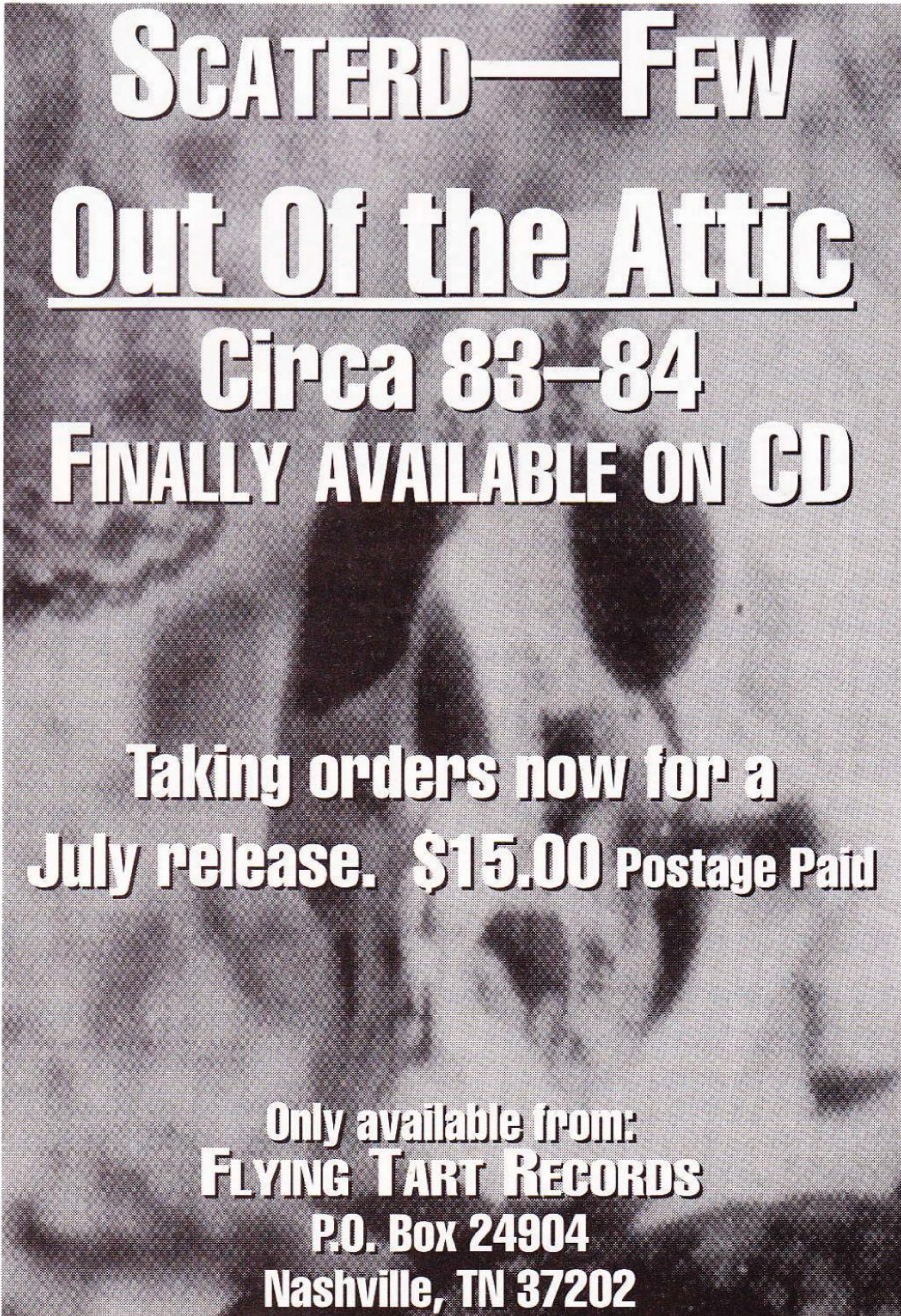
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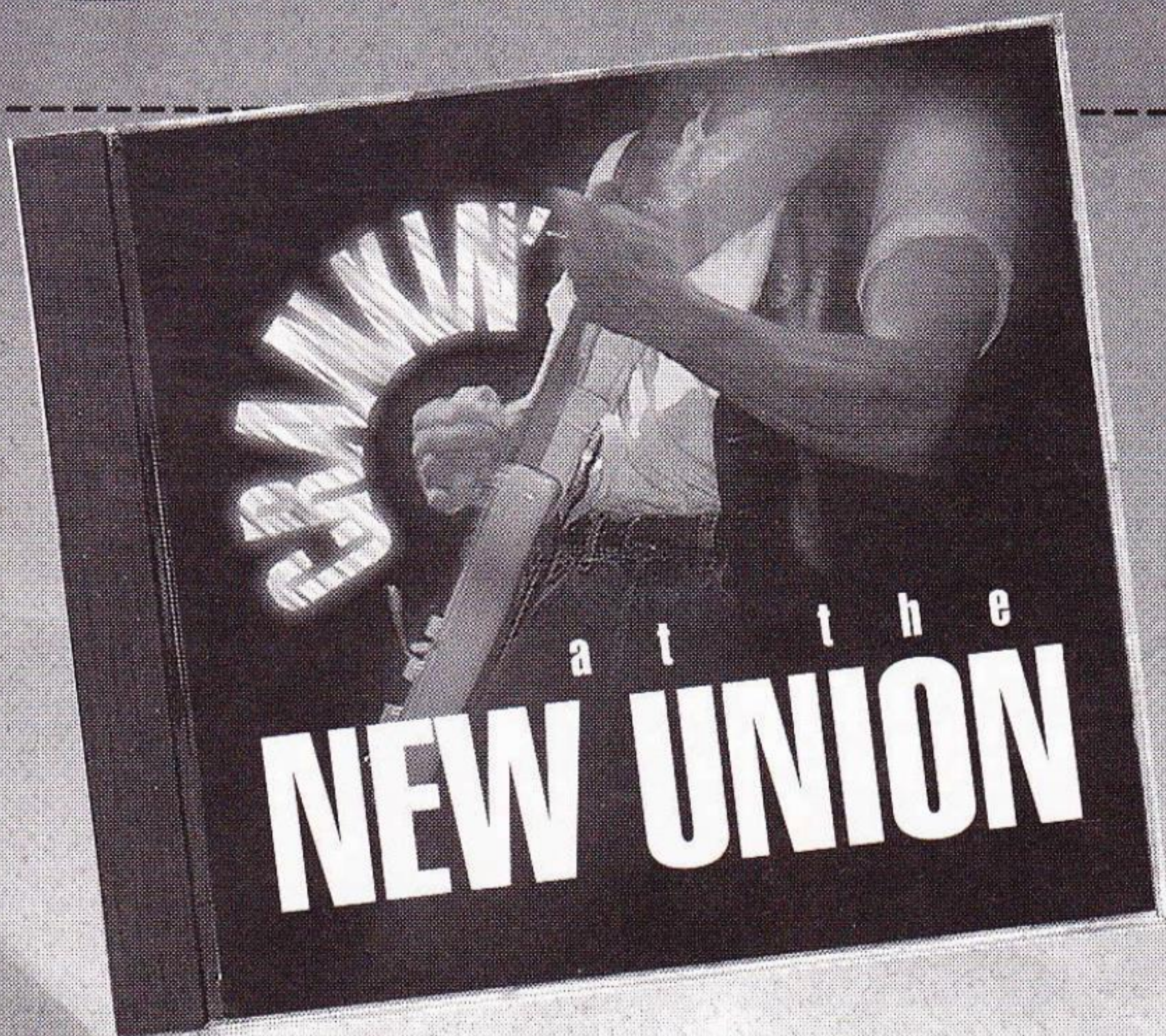
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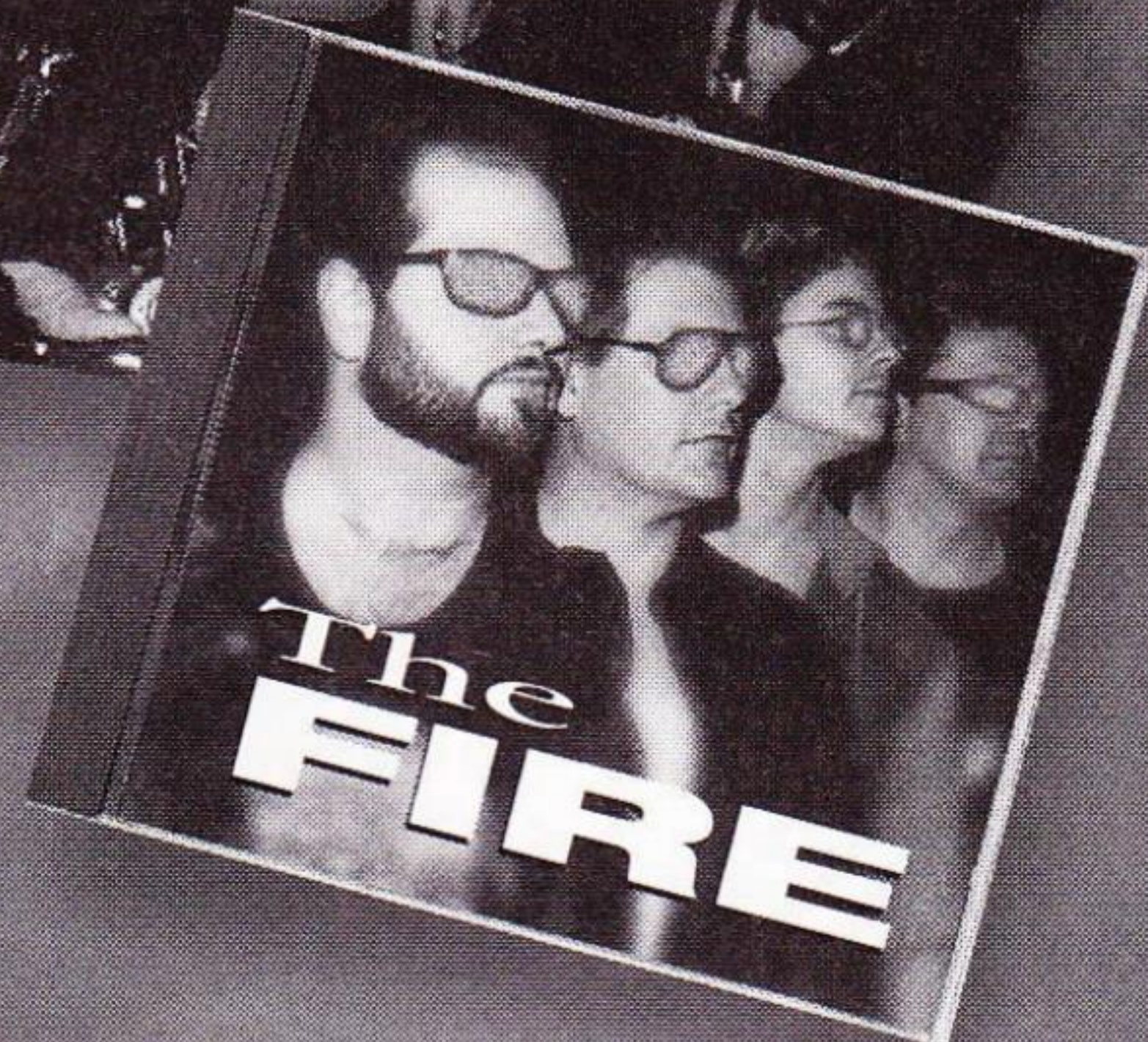
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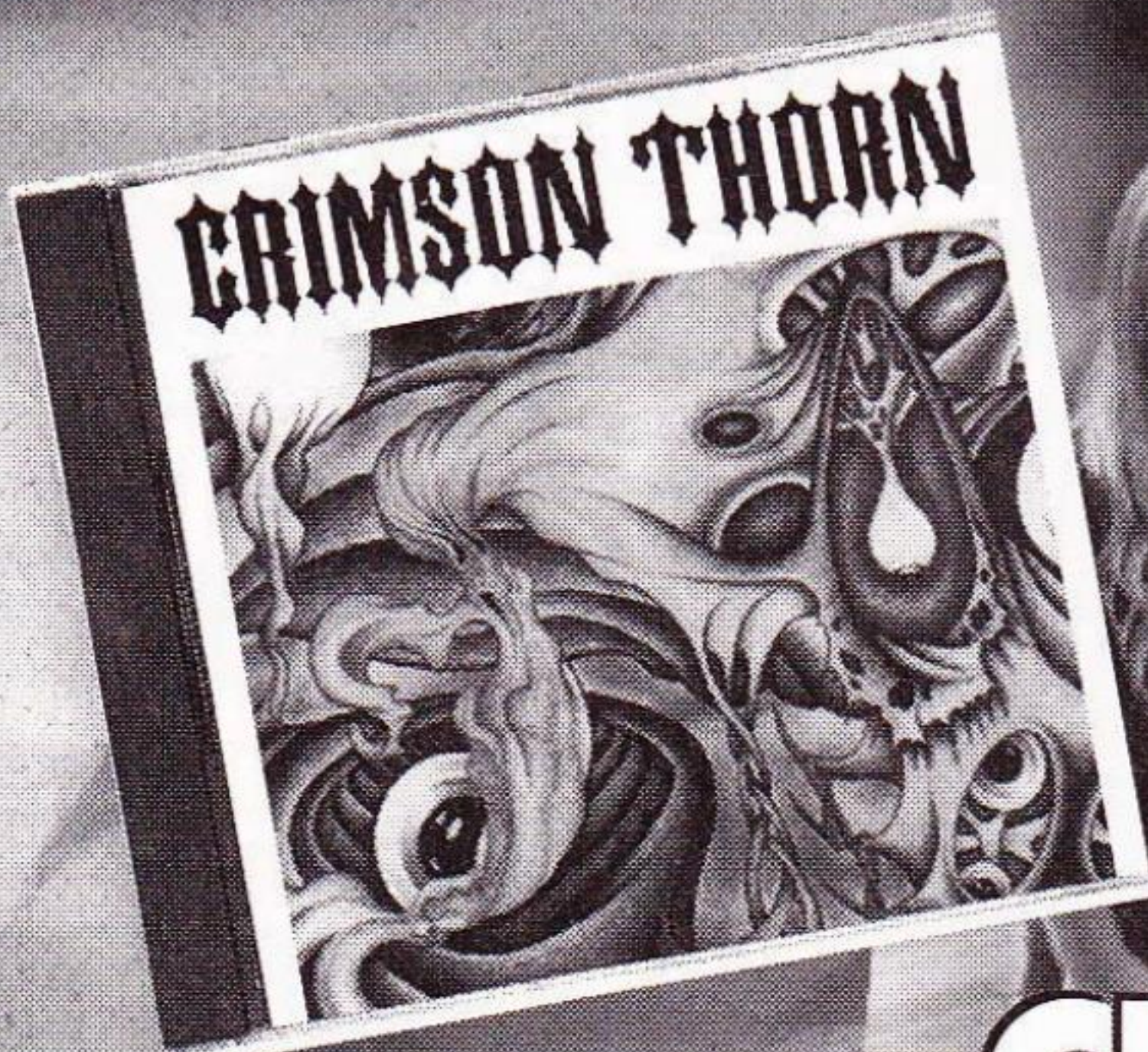
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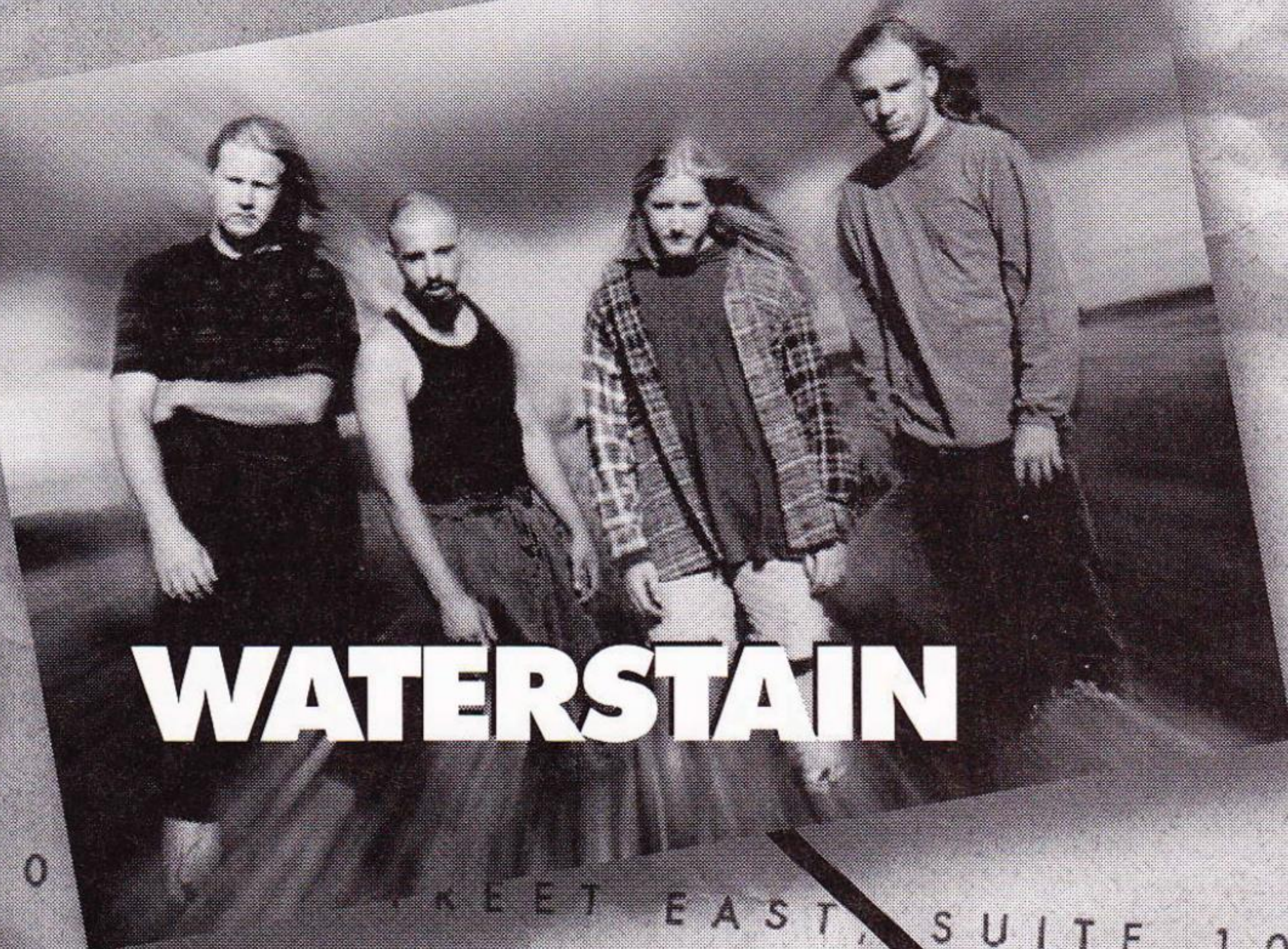


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"Give me a Mountain Dew."

Starflyer 59: "I'd like a Perrier with a twist of lime."

While some bands take a predictable approach, Starflyer 59 goes for that "unique unto itself" approach. They have an alternative sound with edgy guitars, often painting a dreamy landscape with its melody lines. I wouldn't describe it as gothic (or goth), but it reminds me of that scene, with its slow beat and droning vocals. Let's just call this "perfect music for that depressing day" music. Lots of edgy and dirty guitar tones are used, but this definitely fits more into an alternative music collection than a heavy hard music one.

The opening track starts things off in a cool direction with a nice dose of feedbacking and raw guitar accompaniment, but soon shows the band's identity by drifting into a very soothing melody. Of all the Tooth & Nail releases, this is by far the

most pop oriented.

-DV

ROSE

Crazy Little World

Did somebody make a mistake here? Maybe someone at the CD pressing plant accidentally laid down a jam session between Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins and Roger Rose. Surely this isn't Randy "I'm a big Trouble fan" Rose - or is it?

This is not a mistake.

Randy Rose, whose first two studio albums sounded like Danzig belting out the heavy blues-influenced rock, has shifted gears and jumped completely out of the mayhem and moshpit genre.

I can relate to

Randy's new style and see it fitting into the new music revolution, but there's a decided lack of passion and enthusiasm. It seems he's taken the whole nonchalant sub-pop attitude too far. At least Nirvana has some all out emotional outbursts like

"Heart Shaped Box." The guitar sounds found on much of the album are retro-fitted with a 60's strum and jangle. "Life Passes By" sounds like a melody/harmony rip-off of The Beatles' "While My Guitar Gently Weeps."

Lyrically, Randy is more positive than the past. He still talks about God's healing, but it seems he's after an audience of people wearing bright clothes, rather than the ritual abuse survivor in black.

Randy shouldn't have a problem finding a whole new audience (which I'm sure he'll have to do, since I can't see his old headbanger fans following this new direction). It will be interesting to see where he builds from here.

-DV

PFR

Goldie's Last Day

Vireo

Here's a band that really impressed me at last year's GMA performance, with their blend of tight vocal

harmonies and simple Beatlesque approach to rock and roll. 92's single, "Do You Want To Know Love," established the band's identity as "you can't lock us up in a box." This album continues that attitude, but again only produces one song that would keep the attention of rockers who want their heads pounded with volume and power. But, boy do they deliver on the opening number, "Walk Away From Love," which shows an obvious King's X influence. While this trio never races by with 16th notes (nor do they start mosh pits), they have successfully transcended the barriers between pop music and hard rock.

The rest of the album doesn't come close to rockin' this hard, but the first side of the cassette is cohesive in its alternative attitude approach. Several tunes, like "Satisfied," "I Don't Understand" and "By Myself," are firmly entrenched in the Phil Keaggy interpretation of The Beatles

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(like the *Sunday's Child* album). The choice of a flamenco style lead adds a unique twist. The ballad "That Kind of Love" will score lots of points for the band in the adult contemporary side of Christian radio, while the humorous title track is a tip of the hat to the Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper...* era.

Fans of psychedelic bands like Blind Melon and the "intelligent" approach to Rock a la (the lighter side of) Rush, Elim Hall, and The Awakening (remember those two bands?) should appreciate this band's fresh approach to their art. I'm sure they would narrow their audience if they went heavier more often, but I sure wish they'd try.

--DV

GETHSEMANE ROSE Tattered 'n' Torn

Kingsway

Here's a British import that recalls the earlier days of Pure Metal. Remember

the Light Force and Force 3 albums? Taking a straight-ahead blues rock approach (heavy rock-a-billy?), the band comes off as a bit fun, but vocalist Ben Mears doesn't compliment the band nor the songs well on this outing. With a good producer (creative coaching), Ben's vocals could sound dynamite, but this recording sounds as if he didn't breathe properly or have confidence.

These songs, like "What's Wrong," "Baby" and "Jimmy's Luck," pack a punch of sassy attitude. It's just too bad the vocals don't translate enough of the same attitude. A year or so of hungry touring in clubs may have made the attempt more authentic. The exceptions to this are the standout cut "This World," with its heartfelt melodic leads and slightly different vocal approach -- sounding like The Alarm's Mike Peters; and "Thorn." When the band slows it down a bit and then

chooses to kick in, they rock their best.

The other best cuts are: "Shady Dealings," with its loud wah-crazy guitar and moody harmonica; and "Find The Time." Lyrically, the album could almost be a concept album about a few down and out "losers" who need to "win" with Jesus. The album art is done by Rodney Matthews, who did the two Seventh Angel covers.

I'm looking for a killer second album to step up to the plate and deliver the likes of Aerosmith and Bride. They're currently working on one with new drummer Steve Russell, so if a label picks 'em up, we'll see! For ordering info, write: GR, 30 Maynard Ter, Clutton, Bristol, BS18 4PW, England.

--DV

KING'S ROAD Where Angels Walk

Broken

Take the sound of

Margaret Becker's first two albums and the best of Hoi Polloi and you get a great idea of what King's Road can do. With the searing hot vocals of Eve Marie Selis and the driving heartland rock and roll energy of bandmates Marc Intravaia (guitar), John Khula (bass), Mike Peters (keys), and Bob Sale (drums), King's Road has one fine recipe for a smokin' hot debut album. Coming off clean and crisp, the band sounds like a seasoned, veteran outfit.

The band seems to feel very comfortable staking its claim in this heartland rock style, never straying too far from the strong keyboard laced acoustic strumming rhythms. While certainly not edgy, alternative or trendy (there's not a trace of flannel in the cover photo), the band must be applauded for doing what they do so well.

Lyrically, the material sounds honest and very uplifting ("Nothing

Without You" and "Everything I Need"). The band does a good job of addressing a common temptation for single Christians -- "missionary dating" -- in "Unholy Union." The song's got a great hook too! The last two songs on the disc transition together nicely -- "Love Won't Win" travels from a melancholy music line (while talking about the pain of divorce), to a celebratory, upbeat anthem about healing in God ("Into The Sun").

King's Road is a trip worth taking. Now let's just keep Charlie Peacock away from Eve, for fear he'll turn her into a Motown clone!

--DV

PLANK EYE

Spill

Tooth & Nail

Back when Orange

County, California garage bands began making their own brand of punk a little over a decade ago, they were basically making raw pop music. That's a good definition of what we've

got here. Plank Eye isn't using the same formula for their brand of pop music, but they're making it raw and edgy while still maintaining a hook and a melody. This is evidenced in the staccato riffing in "Bold," as well as the bass intro to "Step Away," and the slapping at the start of "Revolution," while tracks like "Free Me" sound like a throwback to those old Orange Co. days.

Cool, groovy stuff.

Low on intensity, high on jangly six-string sounds.

-DV

GUERREROS

Here's a Christian metal band from Guatemala, who uses lots of old Sabbath influences -- big, fat, distorted bass and fuzzy Tony Iommi guitar tones. While below album-budget quality, it's a pretty smokin' tape. It's rare that a Christian band takes this kind of raw, heavy approach to metal. Lyrics are in Spanish,

Pick of the Litter

Here's a new feature where we spotlight our favorite indie tape of the issue.

LOOSE UNIT

Oh man! This band from New Zealand has tons of potential. The best way to describe them is a thrash/grunge band, though they display more talent than the average band of those genres. There are 11 songs, though some are like "Little Monster," which is just a few lyrics with no music. "Real Nice Person" is a power ballad, but other than that, this band is just plain heavy! Vocalist Ricki has a very original voice, which sounds great for this band. The

production is outstanding, so turn it up!

The only distraction I found is in the tune "Who Am I Now," which is too similar to "Just A Little Crazy" by Fight (but recorded before the Fight tune was). With music this incredible, this distraction will be easy to forget. Get this tape at all costs, it's too good to pass up! To order, send \$10 (plus \$4 postage) to: Steve Scott/Loose Unit, PO Box 14-707, Panmure, Auckland, New Zealand.

--Jeff Lott

but I think the Godzilla-style riffs will fill you with enough joy to overlook the language barrier. Besides, it might help you brush up on your Spanish ("Guerreros" stands for "Warriors"). For ordering info, write c/o Dr. Roberto

Gonzalez Arevalo, la Calle "D" 0-33, Zonal, Ciudad de Guatemala, Centroamerica.

--DV

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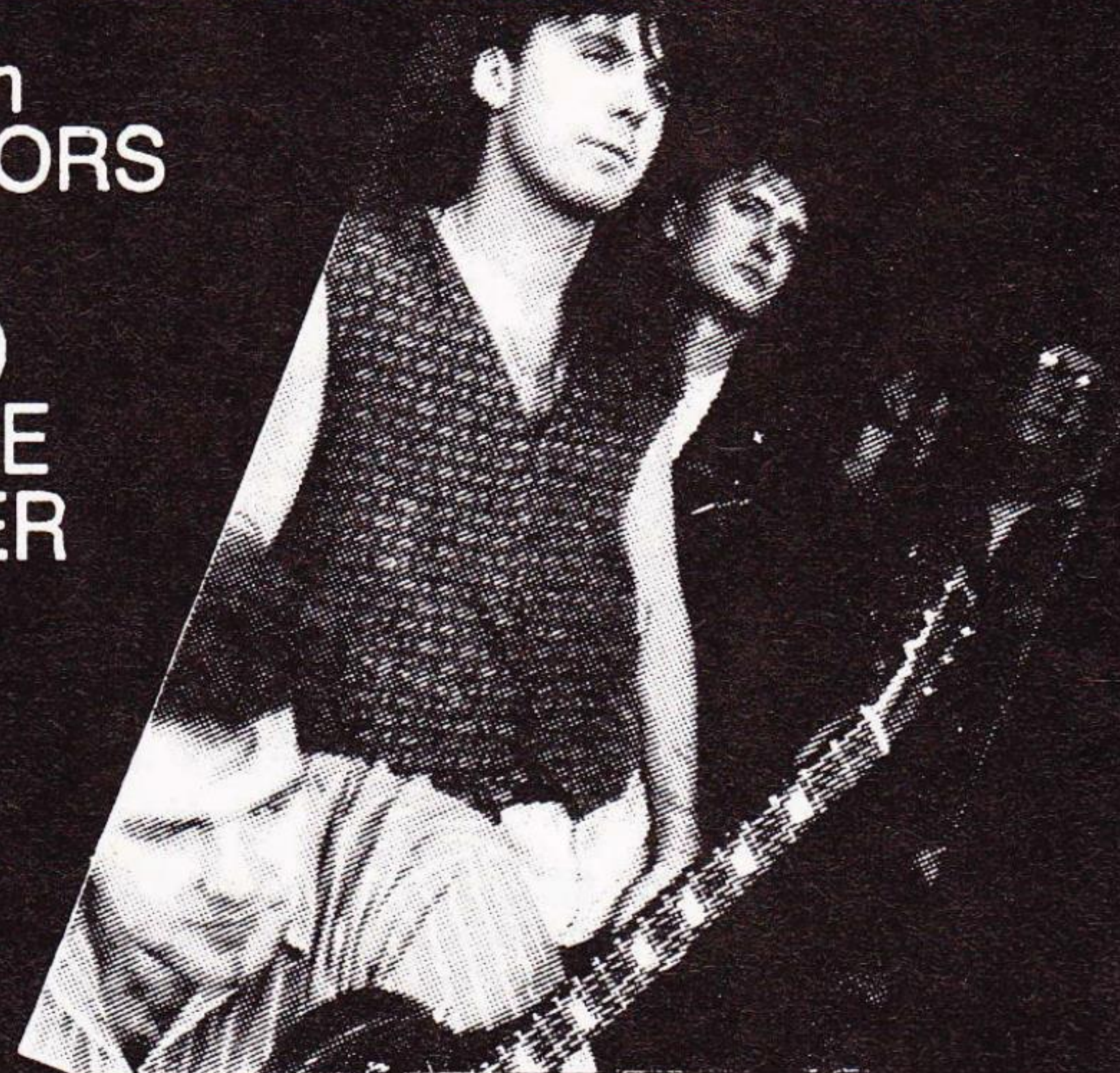
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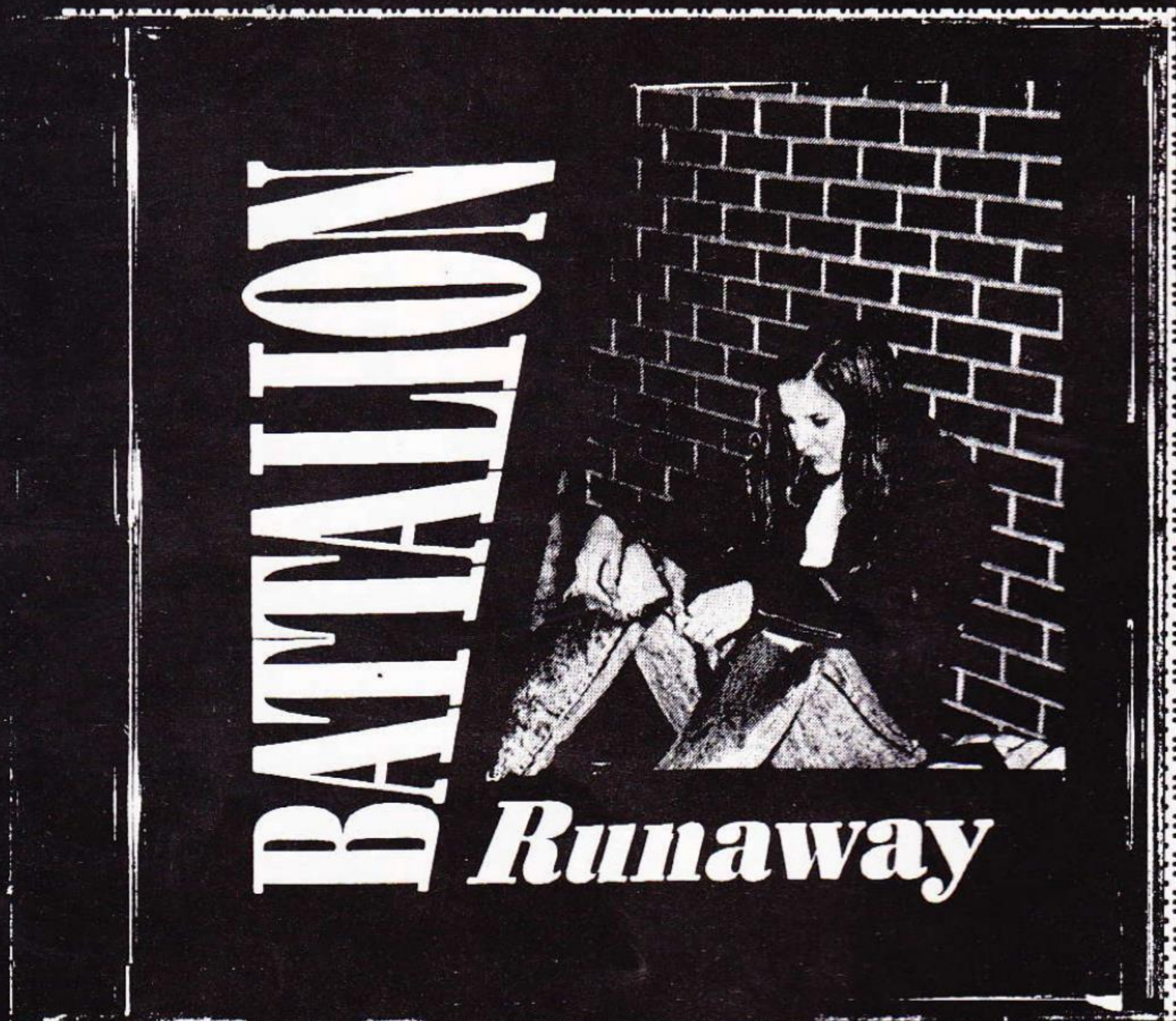
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-Peter Furler of the NEWSBOYS-

"TIGHT SHOW! GREAT SOUND!"
-John Knox of WHITE HEART-

"WHO IS LAST GENERATION?"
-Bill Clinton of the WHITE HOUSE-

basically designed as a tool for youth workers to get people to think about their choices of music and what impact music has on our lives. Two of the humorous (yet cheesy) moments come in the "Greavis and Gutthead" skit and the "Wayne's World" segment with special guests Tourniquet. These are a combination of a great youth group hoot and an, "Uh, I'm embarrassed to show this to my unsaved friends."

This video is broken up into three programs (Music's Power, What's In Rock, and "So What?") and comes with a study guide, which makes for good "stop and discuss" times. To order, call (201) 538-7632 (It's \$21.95).

--DV

ERIC ANTHONY

Here's an excellent full-length tape (9 songs) of killer guitar work. This unit lacks little in chops and this tape lacks nothing in sonic

production. The artwork is a nice piece of four-color too! Some of the guitar tones definitely reek of Eric Johnson.

The only downer of the tape is when Martin Call sings. There's nothing wrong with his vocals, they don't match the intensity of the music and they're not exciting. Never fear, though, only two out of the nine songs have vocals. This tape definitely vies for the top position in "Pick of the Litter" this issue. For ordering info, write: Tim Williams, RR 4, PO Box 129-A, Murphysboro IL 62966-9804.

--DV

Hardcore Vol. 1

Here's four bands playing some extreme aggression with total abandon. The tune "Nation of Hate" by Crawlspace is a killer tune. I hate to use this compliment, because I know that saying, "so and so reminds me of The Crucified" is the ultimate compliment of this genre; but,

for Crawlspace, this is true. This band truly kills, and these other three bands aren't bad themselves. Production suffers quite a bit on this tape, though (making it authentic hardcore in some people's books), so be fore-warned.

--DV

APOSTASY

This band desperately needs to find a good studio. Through the weak production of this tape I can hear quite a bit of talent out of these guys from Pueblo, Colorado -- though that talent is most noticeable when they are not thrashing. There are industrial influences, which are evident in the tape's opener, "Eve of Divinity." Due to its recording, however, it sounds like little more than noise. "Destroyer" is a smokin' tune asking people to accept Christ before it's too late.

This is a good band that deserves a chance. With better production, Apostasy

could be a force to reckon with. The only musical downer is Paul Daugherty's vocals, which sound like he is gagging on something stuck in his throat. Improved vocals are a must! For ordering info, write: Trisha Justice, PO Box 2295, Pueblo CO 81005-0295.

--JL

RITUAL

I know there has got to be a following for underground thrash/death metal, because there are a multitude of bands that keep emerging out of nowhere. Add Ritual to that list. Hailing from Apple Valley, California, they have given birth to five songs of pure aggression. The music is typical of the genre: many time changes, intricate guitar work, and jackhammer drums. The one thing that keeps turning me off, however, is those "coughing up razor blades" vocals. If this is the current trend, I'd like to know why. This is a good musical offering and, if you're

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into this style of vocals, jump on this tape. If not, don't even think about this one. For ordering info, write: 13490 Rancherias Rd, Apple Valley CA 92308.

--JL

CRUCIFER

Here's a 7" piece of vinyl with two songs on it, "Pray for the Dead" and "Post Nuclear Dream," distributed by A.R.T. "Pray..." features a slow, plodding rhythm section over a sometimes half-timing drum section played with the bass pedals that sounds really cool. The vocals are delivered a la thrash/grind, but extremely decipherable. An interesting combo by a competent band. Melodically, the song doesn't score millions of points, but the feel is very heavy and cool.

The B-side tune, "Post Nuclear Dream," is a bit faster and finds the vocalist chompin' on his words a little more. The sonics on these two songs are, considering the

quality of many independent projects of this genre, superb -- even though they every arm chair producer would change things about a certain sound on it.

--DV

DERACINATION

Here is yet another very heavy thrash unit from Australia. This is not music for the faint of heart. We're talking head pounding, brain scrambling thrash here. The production is tolerable, but there is just no way to understand the lyrics with a lyric sheet. Thankfully, they provided one. The words are just as intense as the music: "Smell the stench of human decay/ Rotting in the sin of human nature" (from "Chronic Disorder"); and "Brutality on the cross, blood of the lamb/ Cleansing from impurity" ("Sacrificial Death"). There are seven songs on this tape, and they are among the heaviest I've ever heard. With better production, these guys

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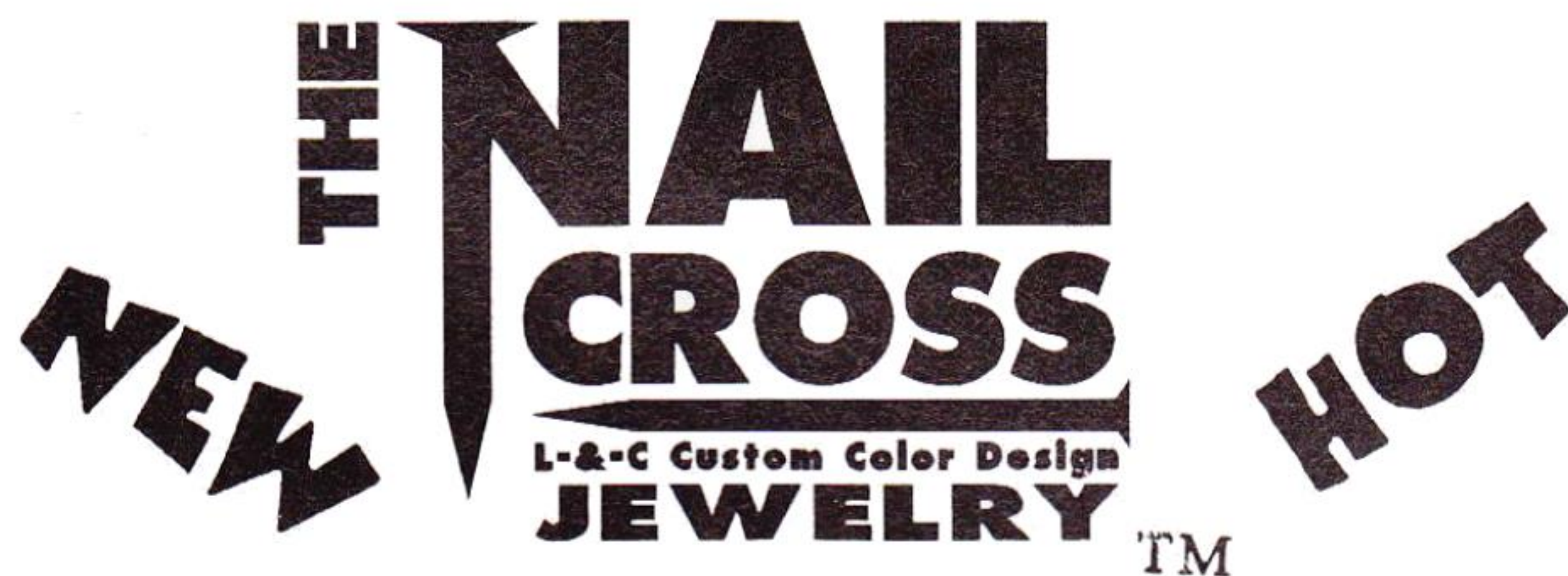
could give Mortification a run for the money. This is really worth checking into. To order, send 10 Australian Dollars or \$6.05 to: PO Box 1545, Northgate, Hornsby 2077, N.S.W. Australia.

--JL

ORACLE

When I saw this tape

in the "to be reviewed" stack, I quickly snatched this one. Having loved their impressive debut, *Selah*, I knew I was in for a treat. I wasn't disappointed. There are two songs here, "Wolves of the Cloth" and "Apathy's Slumber." What else can I say about Oracle? They are an incredible



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band that deserves major label attention. I would say that both tunes are similar to Tourniquet's non-thrash material -- very complex and extremely brutal. When I made my staff picks for "best unsigned band," Oracle was second only to Precious Death. If the rest of this album is like these songs, then Oracle may be the band to watch for in 1994. To order, send \$5 (plus \$1 postage) to: 3006 Shamrock Dr, Greensboro NC 27408.

--JL

SECULAR DEFORMITY

Lyrical this band from Chicago is miles ahead of a lot of other bands. "You made me be all that I hate/ You used me and told me a little too late/ I gave up all and gave it to you/ You were the trash that I couldn't see through" (from "Synthetic Jesus"). "The King is standing at the door/ When it opens you hit the floor/ In humility as His son/ or in fear of His coming wrath" (from "Sermon on the Box"). They really have it together here. Their musical style is another story. It is of the thrash/hardcore/punk variety and, while they are talented, there's no new ground made here. To order, send \$6 to: 6334 S. Long, Chicago IL 60638.

--JL

ALTARED STATE

These boys deliver some attitude and aggression...enough to get your head moving, but not enough to get your whole body involved -- know what I mean? This band is hot. They take an intelligent approach to some of their lyrics, like "Take Me In," a song about a woman who takes in a wounded snake, restoring its health; only to have it get well and bite her, saying, "Oh tender woman/ When you took me in/ You knew I was a snake." The band's got a good bite, too. Musically, they need a little more growth; but they show some real promise.

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--DV

THE CALM

Ex-Taker/ex-

Armageddon guitarist PJ Bussey teams up with his wife, Ellyn Bussey, along with other ex-Armageddon players Rob Lee (drums) and Danny Wilkinson (bass) for a creative combo of progressive rock and power metal. It doesn't sound like anything Armageddon recorded, though it does remind you of their guitar tone. The band has some good ideas, like the breaks before each chorus in "Down In The Valley," but I don't think they're quite ready to go in the studio for a big budget album. There's some good guitar work, like the harmonies in "Interlude/Into The Calm."

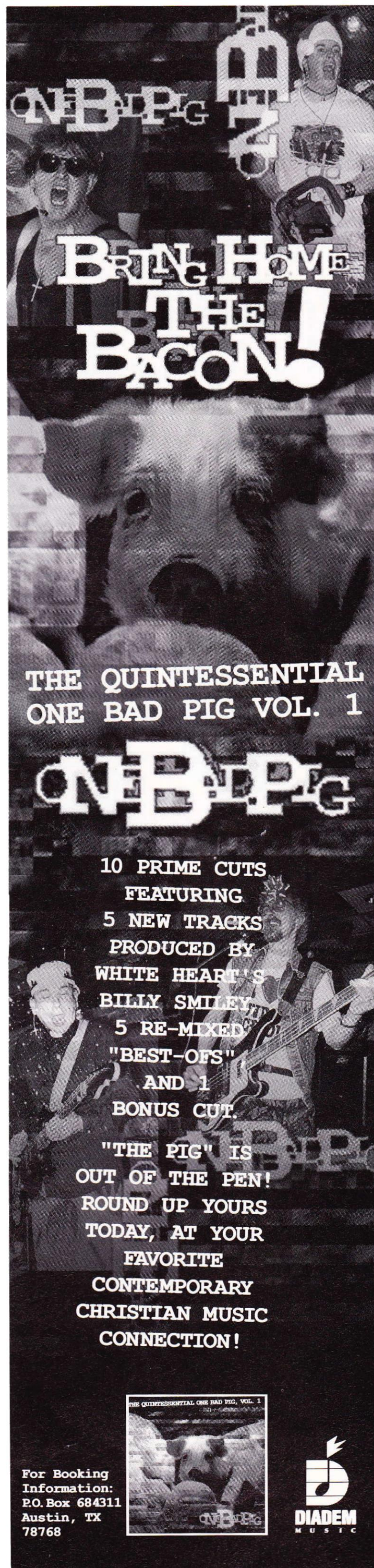
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--DV

ASHEN MORTALITY

Those of you who've wondered what Ian Arkley of Seventh Angel has been up to will have their answer in Ashen Mortality. Together with his fiancée, Melanie-Sarah Bolton, they've put together a devastating tape of three brutal songs with all the heaviness you'd expect from dear old Ian.

Ian describes the new sound as doom metal -- a label that fits well, although I'd add that the band has a speed metal crunch to its guitar sound, and they go after it speed-wise



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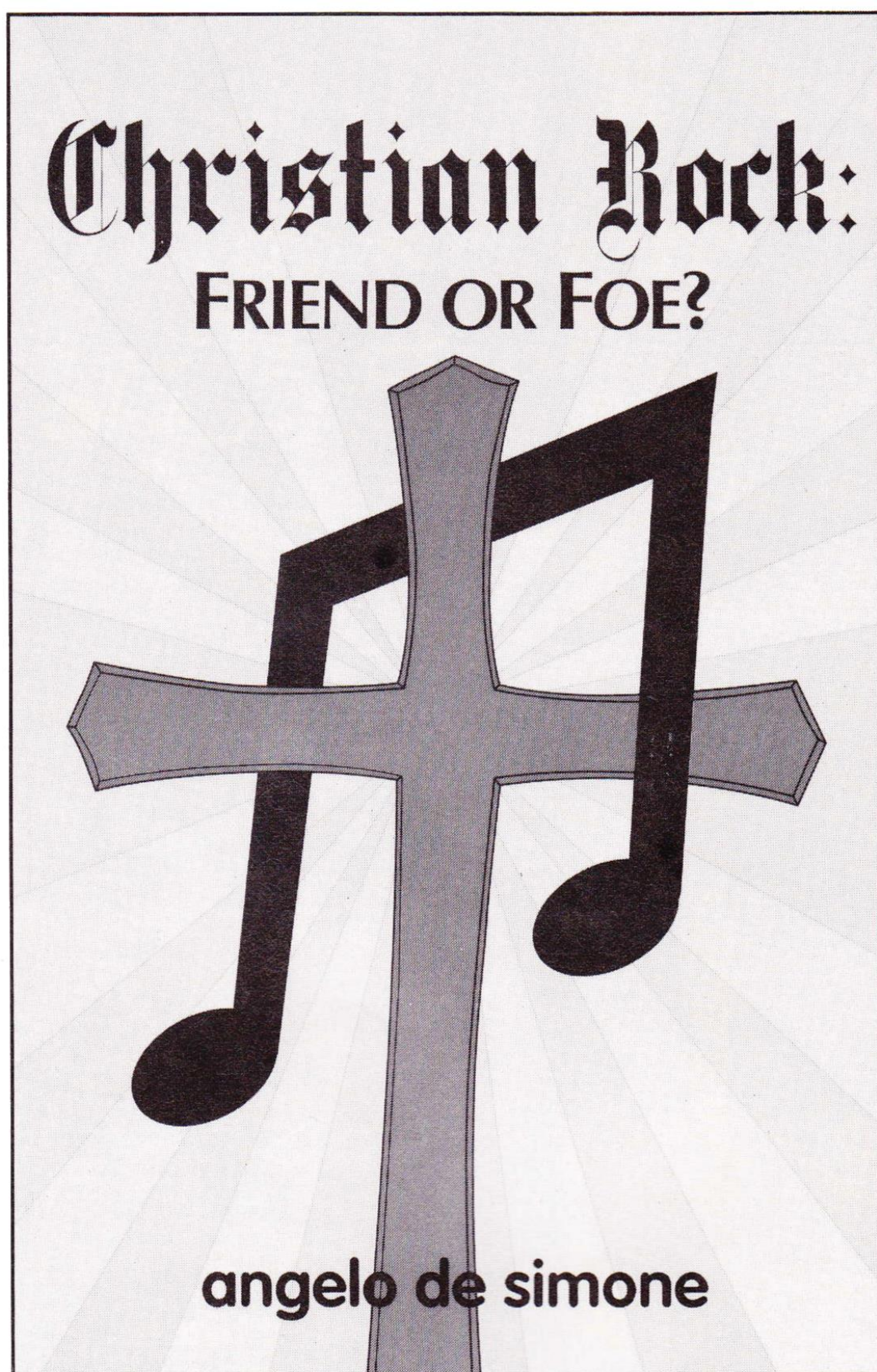
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Christian Rock: Friend or Foe? deals with a highly sensitive and controversial issue that is currently being disputed within the established Christian church. Some very stern judgments have been passed on Christian rock music and on the people who perform it, but the musicians themselves, who see it as their personal ministry for spreading the Good News, have not yet been given a fair hearing.

Here from a Christian musician's perspective, are thoughtful answers to questions such as these:

- Who created music?
- Where does the Bible stand on music?
- What is the function of music for the Christian church?
- Is music an integral part of a Christian's life?
- Is "Christian Rock" a contradiction in terms?
- Are all the traditional Christian songs truly inspired by God?
- Is there any difference between secular and Christian music?
- Is the message of Christian rock songs a watered-down or shallow Gospel?
- Is Christian rock music too worldly, just another form of entertainment?
- Is Christian rock music a form of addiction or sexual perversion?
- How long has this controversy existed within the established Christian church?

Over fifty reasons provided by Christians to the author for rejecting rock music as an acceptable ministry from God are examined in detail, revealing why there is such resistance to endorsing Christian rock within the established Christian church. Each reason is discussed from a logical, musical, and most important of all, scriptural standpoint. To substantiate the discussion, 275 Scripture references are provided. The reader is challenged to investigate the points raised by these reflections and to reach his or her own conclusion as to their validity.

Is Christian rock the friend of the established Christian church, or its foe? Is it a dangerous obstacle to the growth of the church? Or is it a great tool God has given us to further the coming of His Kingdom?

The stakes have never been higher. Thoughtful Christians cannot afford to reject an authentic ministry provided by God to bring to Himself the people of this increasingly troubled world.

occasionally in "The Darkest of Nights."

After reviewing too many (shall we say) "light-stepping" projects this time around, it felt great to play a thunderous tape with a monster sound. This one'll require some hassle to order, but it'll be well worth it. You must (no exceptions!) send 3.50 British Pounds (International M.O. in British currency) to: 74 Witley Avenue, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 4DW, England. (Enclose an Int'l Postage Certificate if you want a response to a letter)

--DV

II EDGED SWORD

Here's a 12-song CD with good sonics and sensible song structures. While there's some screamin' guitar solos here ("Crucified With Christ"), most of the songs would have been cutting edge back in '83 or '84. In fact, II Edged Sword sounds a lot like The Daniel Band. The message is clean and upfront. There's no doubt these guys want their audience to draw close to the Lord. Some of the tunes are worshipful, like the title track/band theme song. One exception is the political tune "Gidget Goes To Baghdad" (Betcha can't guess what it's about!). Another is the love song "Lavanya."

To order, send \$10 (plus \$2 postage) to: 1924 Harewood Rd, Edgewood MD 21040.

--DV

ERIC PETERSON

This 19 year old young man has obviously been listening to a lot of Jimmy Brown's guitar work. This is another one of those "creative types" who wrote all the songs, plays bass, sings, and plays all the guitar on this 6-song project. The tunes are brutal and range in style from thrash to straight ahead metal. The production is a little weak, but is still quite listen-able. For ordering info, write: 203 Herworth Dr, Chesterfield MO 63005.

--JL

JOYFUL NOYZ

Even though this tape has been around for a couple of years, and the music is slightly dated, I really enjoyed *Run*. The title cut starts this melodic power metal feast off in a big way, with a tight groove that never lets up. Of the three musicians in the band, all are listed as vocalists. Bassist Paul Smith was quite similar to Les Carlson, drummer Tommy Corbin reminded me of Scott Doerfler (ex-Xalt), and guitarist Todd Underwood sounded like himself. All ten songs sound really good. They range from ballads ("Here To Stay" and "To Be With You") to barn burners ("Only One" and "Greater Is He"). The intro to "Tenth Century Reasoning" is great, with Todd and Tommy trying to revive Paul, who seems to have died just before the song started. He came back and wails away.

Great tape! Make an effort to hear this one. To order, send \$8 to Joyful Noyz, PO Box 55743, Phoenix AZ 85078.

--JL

SEVENTH SIGN

Former Emerald guitarist Dave Enos and his band Seventh Sign have put out a very good three-song tape. The music is well-polished metal with a lot of melody and unique vocals done by Brenda Barnet. Seventh Sign doesn't seem out to impress anyone with flashiness, and that's exactly what impressed me. The band is talented, with the only drawback being the higher key that Brenda sings off and on throughout the song "Mercy." This is a band that I very much enjoyed listening to. If you liked Ransom, but just a touch heavier, send for this tape. For ordering info, write: PO Box 202256, Phelan CA 92329.

--JL

CROWN OF THORNS

While the production is a little below average, it's obvious that this band is serious about their music.

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Memories of Iron Maiden appear from time to time and, while Crown of Thorns are not in the same league with Maiden, they definitely have their intensity in tunes like "Abdication." "The Ransom" kicks off with some fiery guitar before slowing down to showcase the vocals of Jeff Holdaway. This is very competent metal with some Sacred Warrior influence, but the music is intense enough to keep it current. Not to be passed up. To order, send \$6 to: 2852 Jeff Davis Hwy #109-14, Stafford VA 22554.

--JL

MASADA

Out of Omaha, Nebraska comes a pretty decent six song demo of tunes by a three brother team called Masada. The guys admit in their letter that the aren't metal, but to be honest, they sound better than some metal bands I've reviewed. There are mellow songs like "Hold On"

and "Your Only Way," but for the most part Masada sounds a lot like Halo. If you're looking for a break, then this band will be a good place to start. For ordering info, write to: P.O. Box 4905, Omaha, NE 68104.

--JL

Several of these rare tapes and CD's (most especially the ones from overseas) can be found via mail-order (and at some summer festivals) from the following businesses: Rad Rocker's Emporium, 370 Greentree Lane, Milan, MI 48160; True Tunes, 210 West Front Street, Wheaton, IL 60187; and Long's Christian Music, PO Box 547336, Orlando, FL 32854-7336. This is a great help for some of you, because it can be a hassle going to the bank to get an international money order in foreign currency (just ask our overseas subscribers when they want to buy something here!).

HM

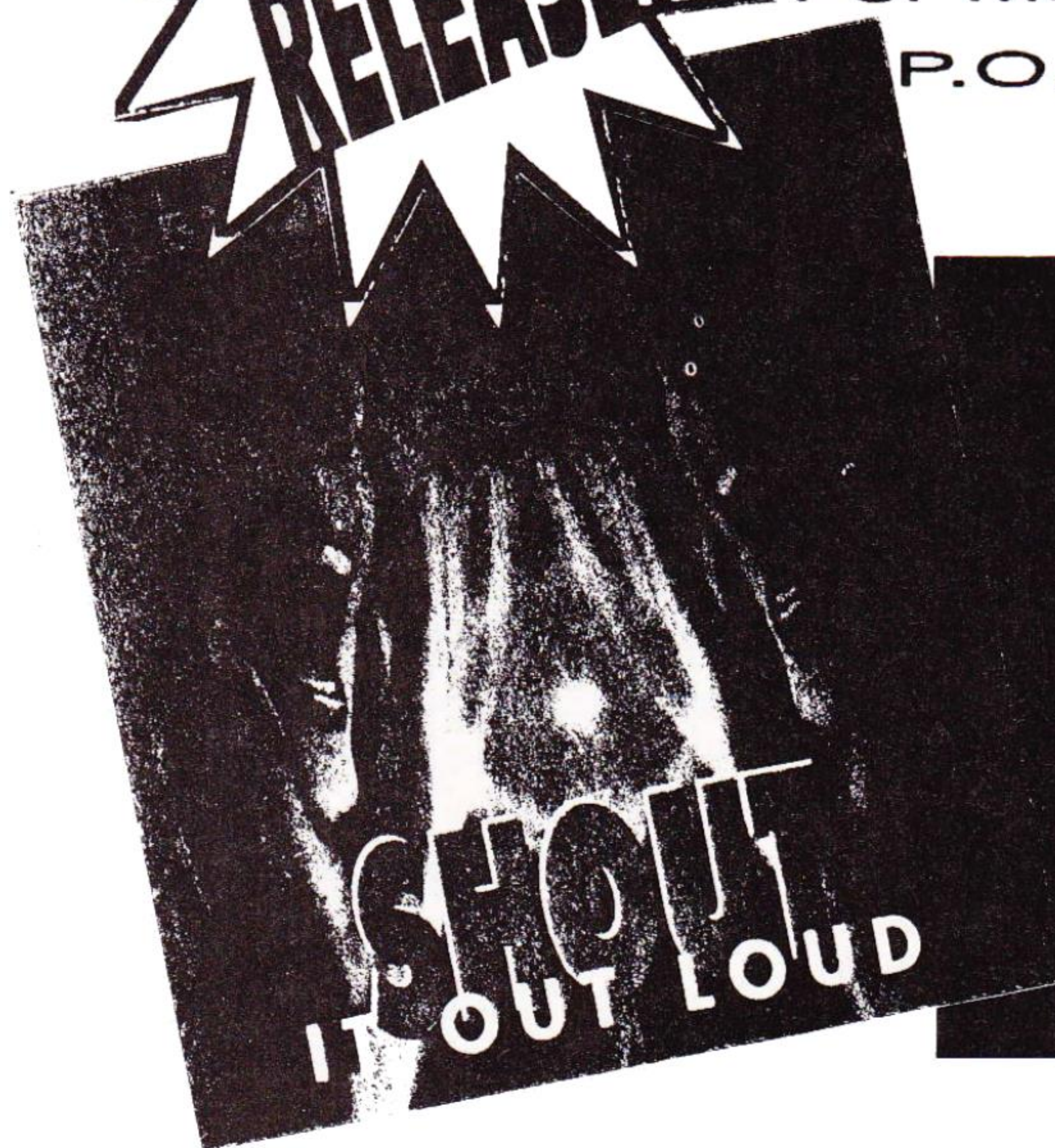
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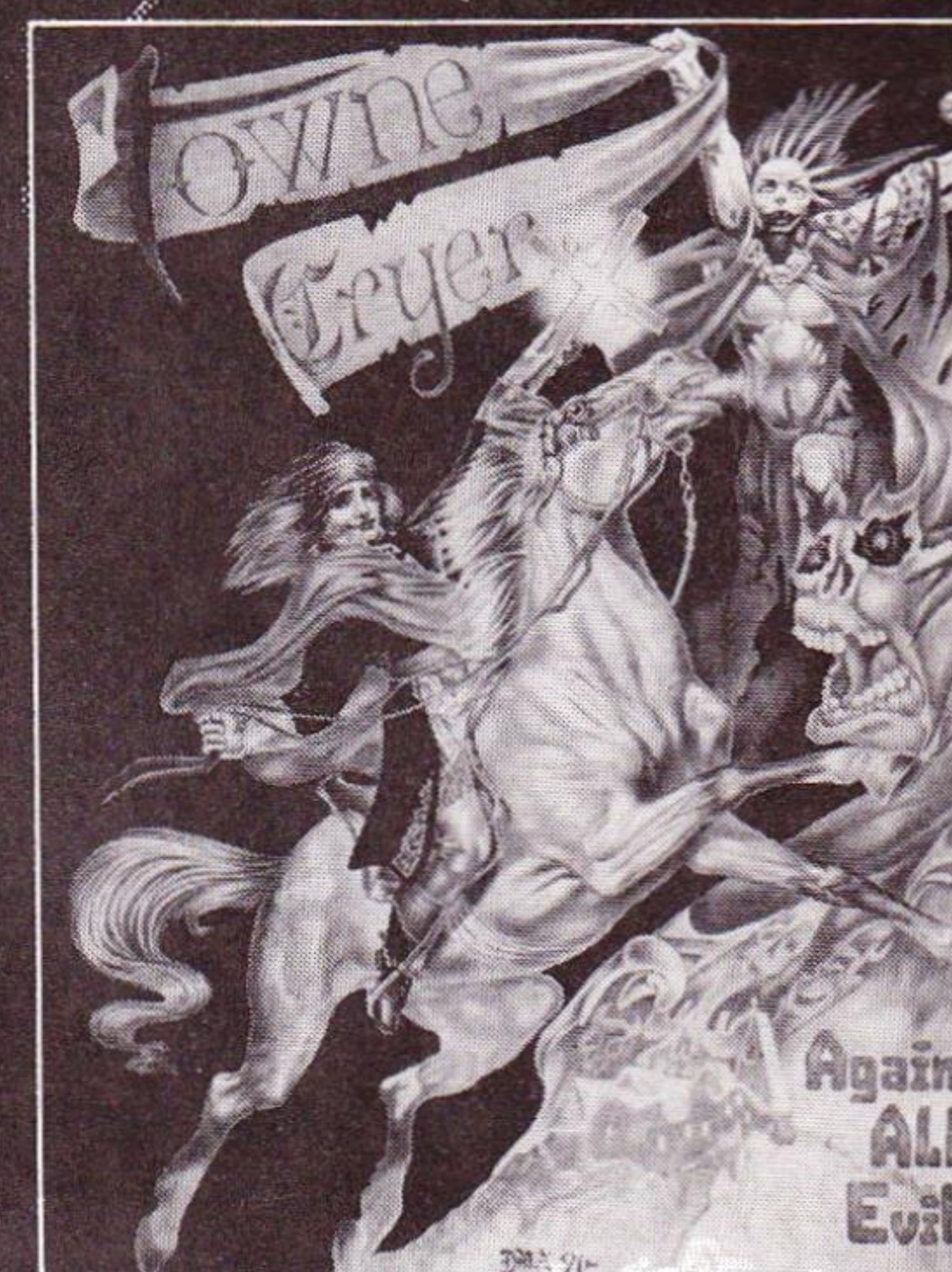
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"Wow, man! Doug, you may

have just given me an amazing gift right here, man; because the rock and roll industry has got to be the toughest business -- the hardest business to talk to people about that. I mean, I guess I had some weird experiences early on with people that were kind of shoving things down my throat. I can stand back as an observer and watch someone get turned off, and I would go, 'I don't want to do that!' I don't want to be so forceful and so aggressive about it that people just go, 'Hey man! I don't need that or want that...if I'm gonna be like you! You're a jerk, man!' I don't want that. So, I guess it's like doing anything else, you've got to have some method to what you're doing. This will be great. I'll definitely read this."

I KIND OF BELIEVE THE SAME WAY. IT'S LIKE ONE ASPECT...WHEN I LOOK AT THE CHURCH... SOMETIMES YOU'LL SEE, LIKE, A CHURCH OF CHRIST AND A BAPTIST CHURCH ACROSS THE STREET, AND THEY'LL FIGHT EACH OTHER. THEY'RE TRYING TO BRING PEOPLE INTO THEIR FAMILY, AND PEOPLE LOOK AT IT AND GO, "WHY DO I WANT TO BE IN YOUR FAMILY? YOU DON'T LOVE EACH OTHER!"

"There's a lot of sad, sad churches out there. I've experienced a lot

of that. You've gotta be careful. I mean, if you're an elder at a church or a deacon, it's almost like your responsibilities are even greater, because more people watch you than you think. I have seen some churches make some really bad decisions. It's tough. I mean, life is tough. I don't think anyone should be going through life without a belief that there's someone there looking out for them and someone guiding them. I meet a lot of sad people out there -- people that aren't focused, that have no clue to what they're doing or why they're doing it.

"I'm just thankful that we're doing as well as we are. You can bet, I prayed a lot of nights, man. Whether it's, 'Get us there safely,' or 'Please help my throat to work when I get on stage!' (laughs) We're doing the first of eight nights in a row tonight. We've never done eight nights in a row -- ever! So, you can bet Monday night in Oklahoma City I'm going to have the door shut and a towel over my head going, 'Please, God, please! Give me some magic, give me an extra push to get out there and pull it off.' Sometimes, man, it's just really hard.

"It's been a pleasure talking to ya. Thanks again for the book. That's a very nice gift. I appreciate that." **HM**

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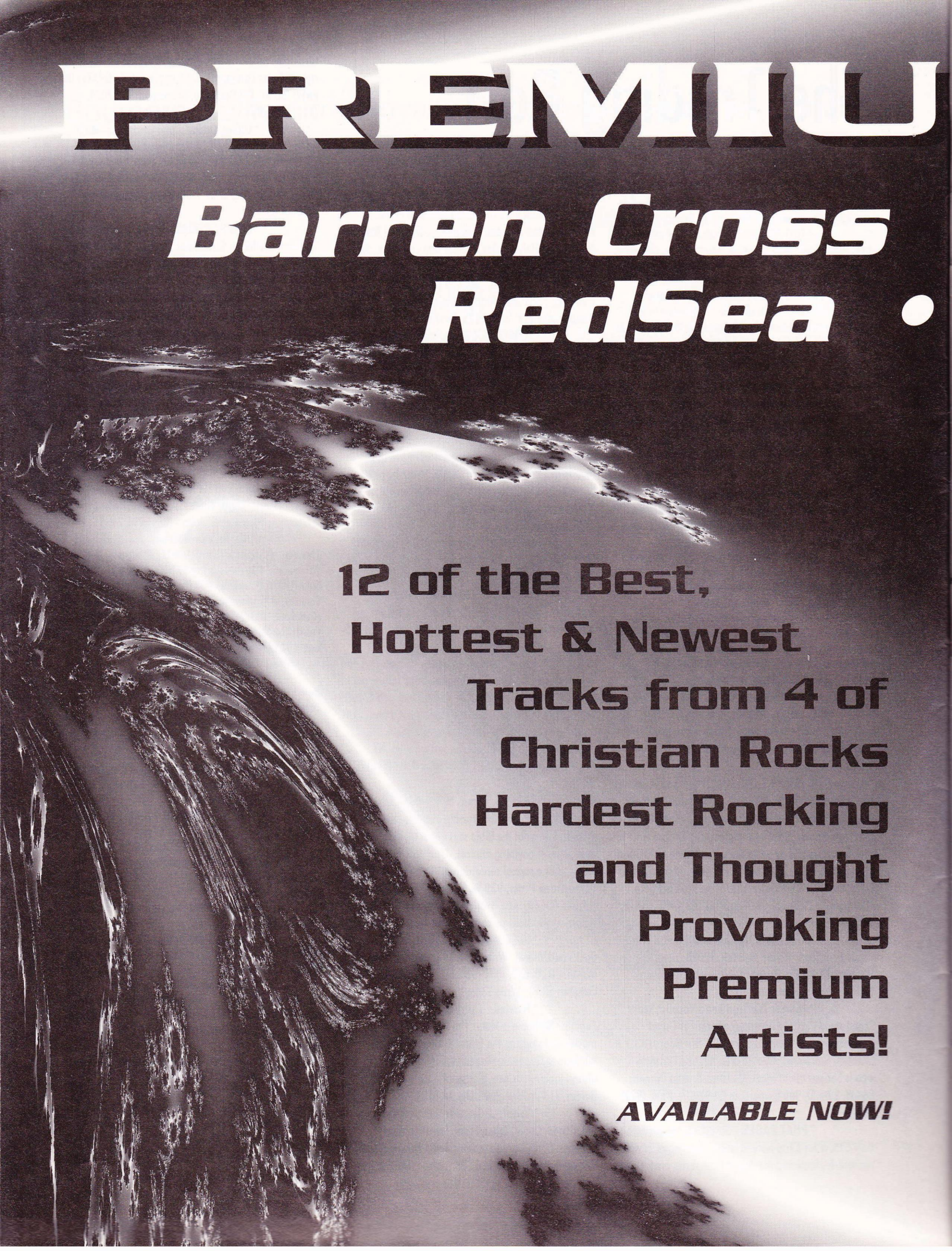
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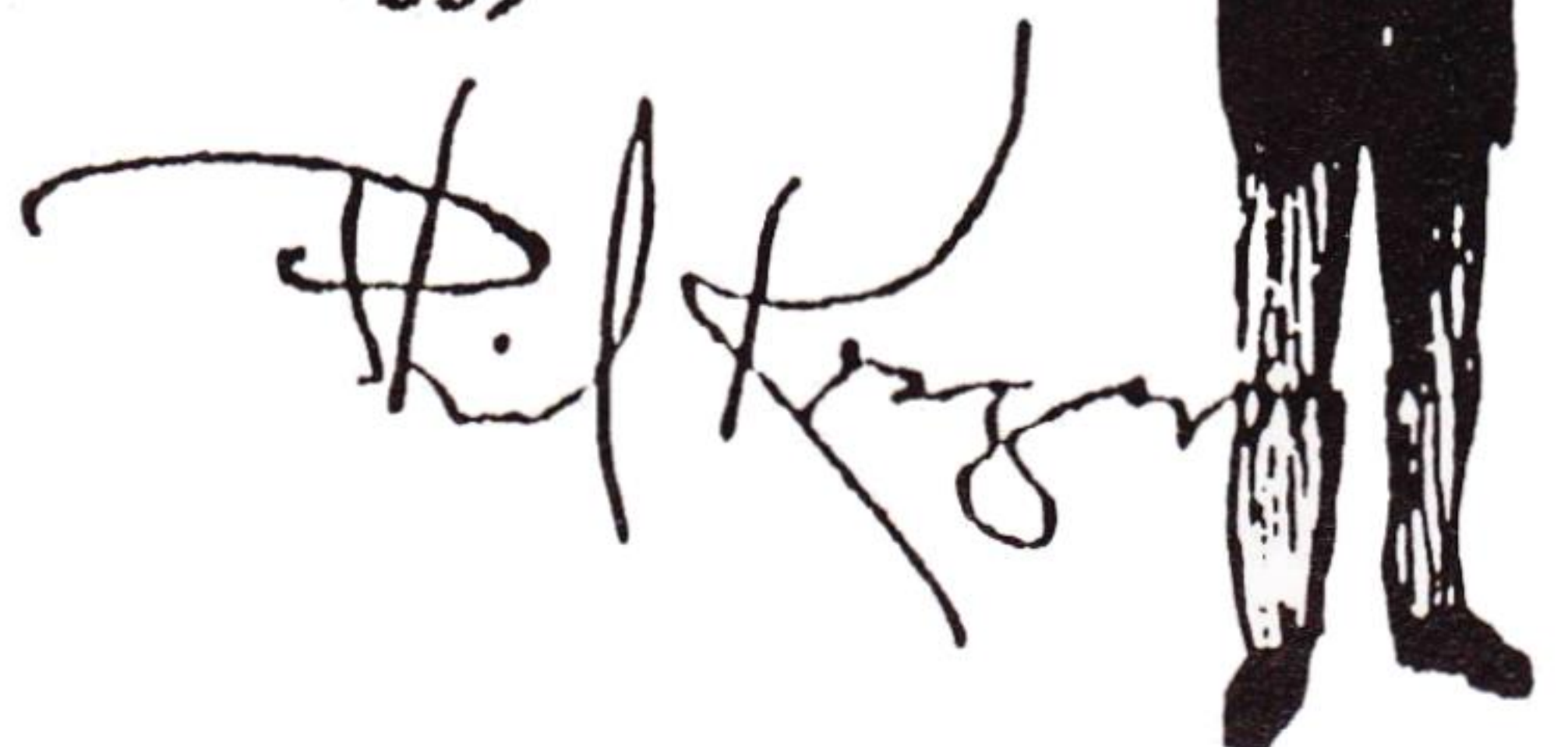
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Licks & Tricks *By Jeff Scheetz*



I recently received a couple of letters from players wanting to know more about chords. So, being the complying kind of fellow I am, here goes!

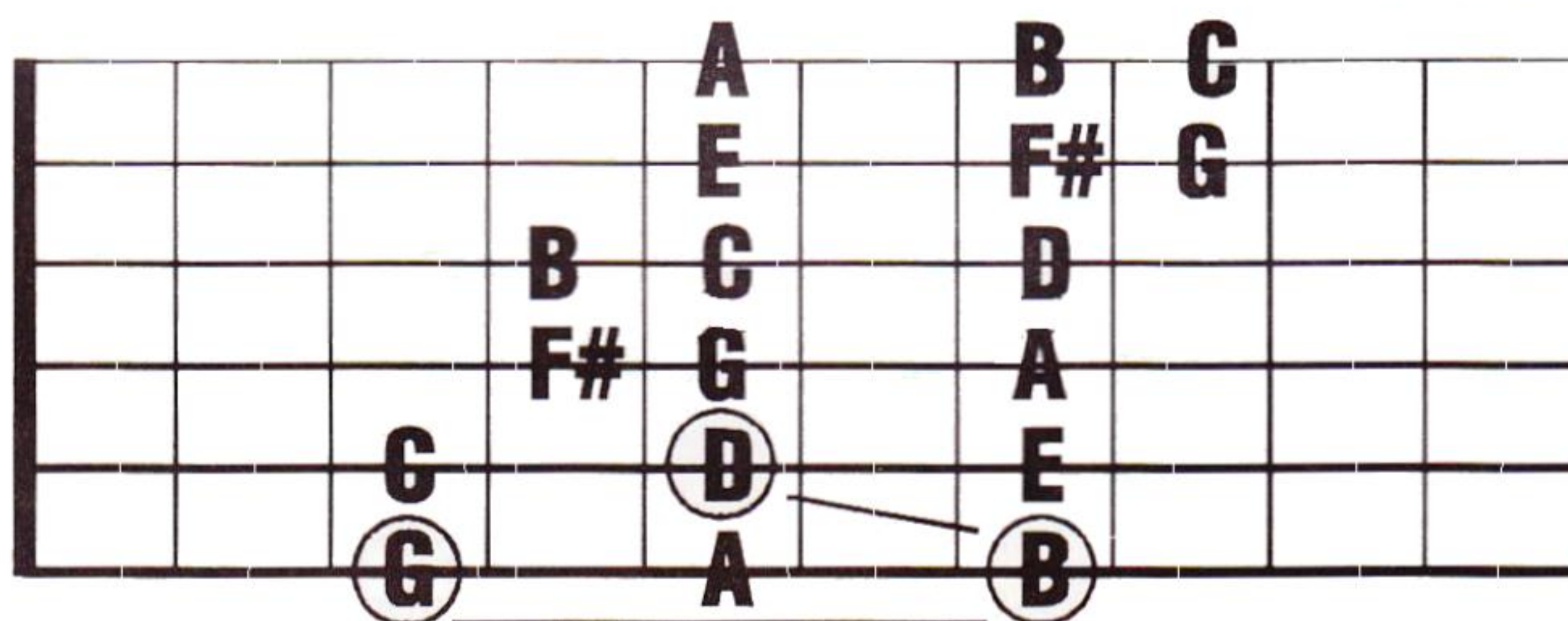
This is an excerpt from my new instructional book that will be available soon. In the book I cover many guitar subjects -- with the main theme being to provide easy explanation to help guitarists better understand scales, chords, theory, modes, and more. The guitarist who already plays, but wants a better grasp of their instrument, will be able to get a lot out of this information. (If you want to receive more info about the book, along with how to order an advance copy, write to the address below.) The following is from the "Chords II" section.

Just like we have scales made up of notes, we also have scales made up of chords, called... you guessed it -- chord scales! Knowing your chord scales will allow you to:

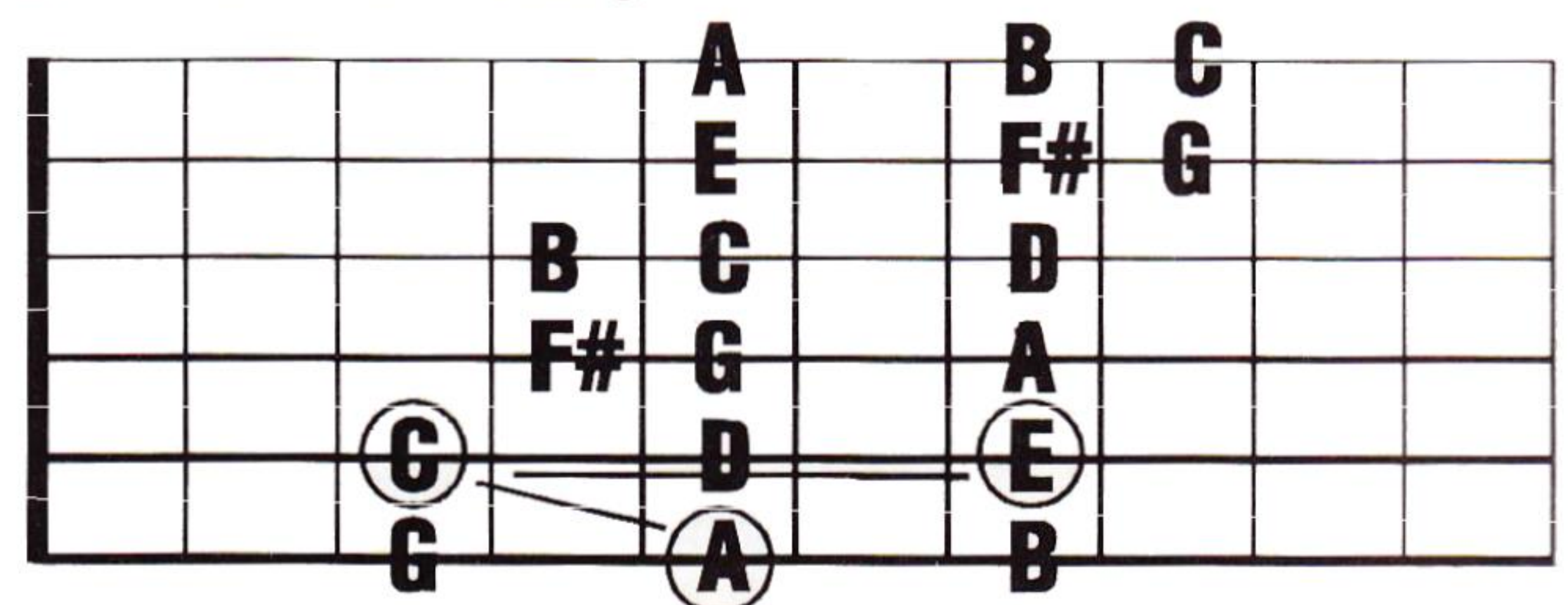
1. Write chord progressions that sound great.
2. Figure out what key a song is in.
3. Know what scale to use to solo over any progression.

Our chord scale is constructed by building a chord on each note of the Major scale. We do this by "stacking 3rds." In other words, if we are in the key of G and using our G Major scale, we would build a chord on each note of the scale, G-A-B-C-D-E-F#.

To build our first chord, we take our G note and go up a 3rd (three notes) to B, and then go up a 3rd from there to D. These three notes, when played together, form a G Major chord. We then start on the second note of the scale (A), and go up a 3rd to C, and then up another 3rd to E. These three notes give us our second chord, A minor.

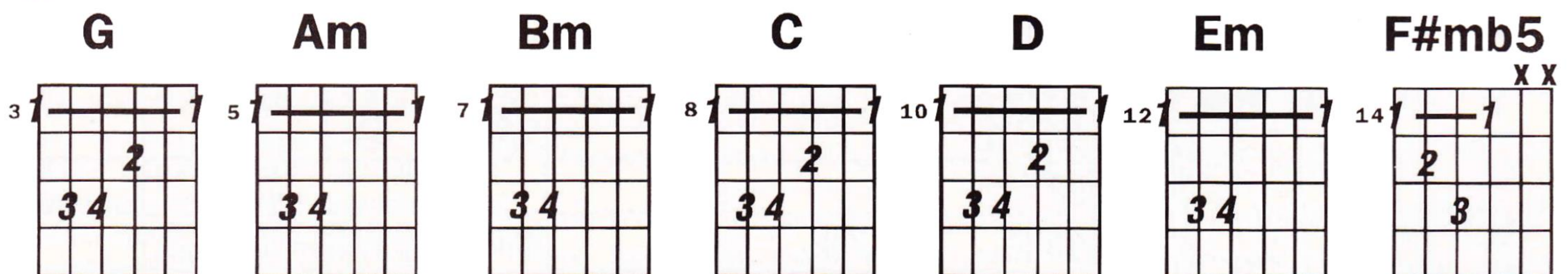


G B D = G Major



A C E = A minor

We continue this by starting on each note of the scale and going up a 3rd, and then another 3rd from there, giving us a three note chord based on each note in the Major scale. Remember, we are staying diatonic to G Major and only using the notes in our G Major scale. This gives us the seven chords in the key of G Major. To play these chords in any other key, just move the first chord of the tonic of the scale of whatever key you want to play in and then follow the same chord building procedure in that key. The chords will be in the same order (Major, minor, minor, Major, Major, minor, minor b5) in every key. The letter names of the chords will change depending on the notes in the particular key you are in. Experiment by playing these chords in different keys and quizzing yourself. For example, "What is the fourth chord in the key of D?"

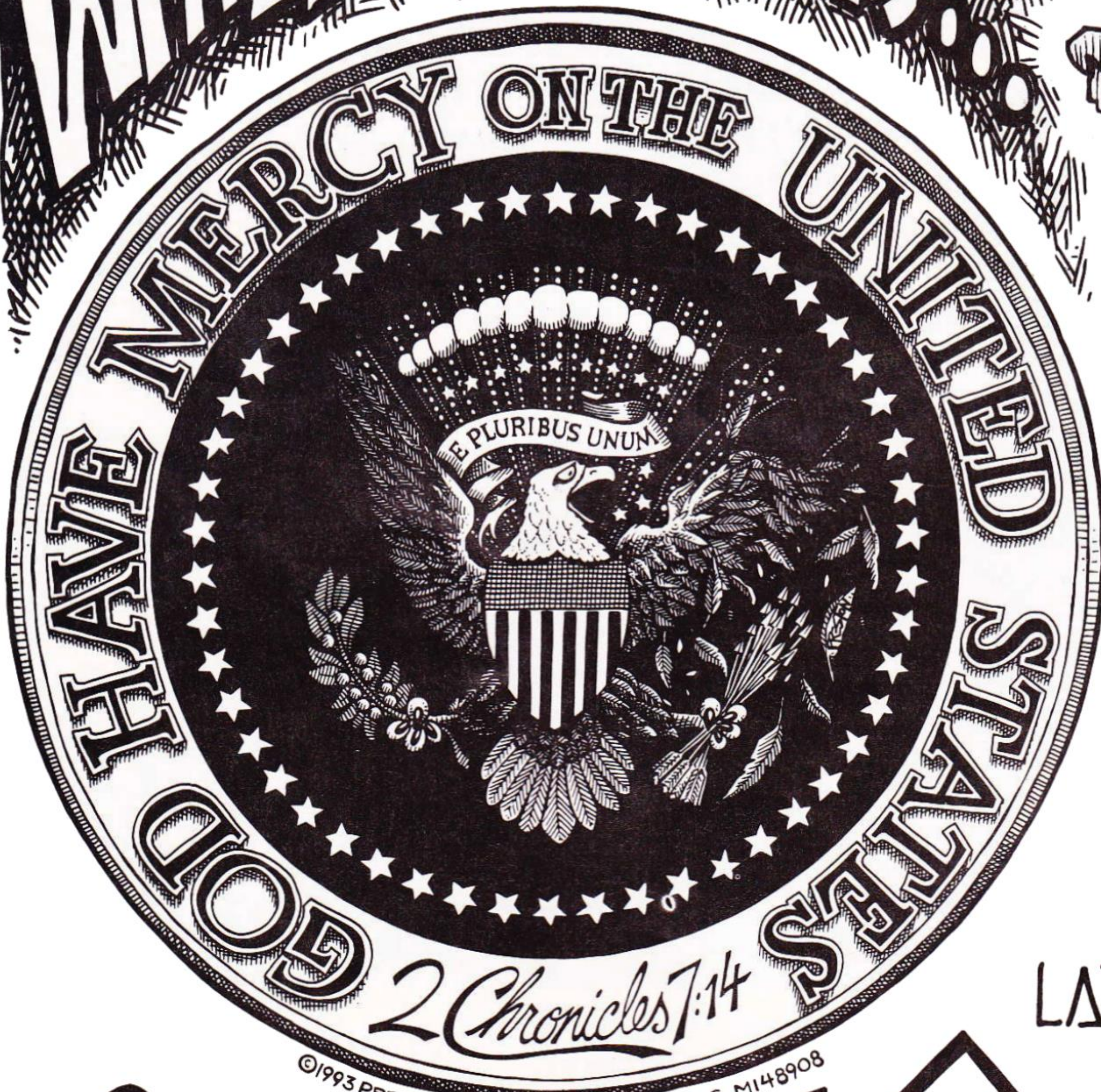
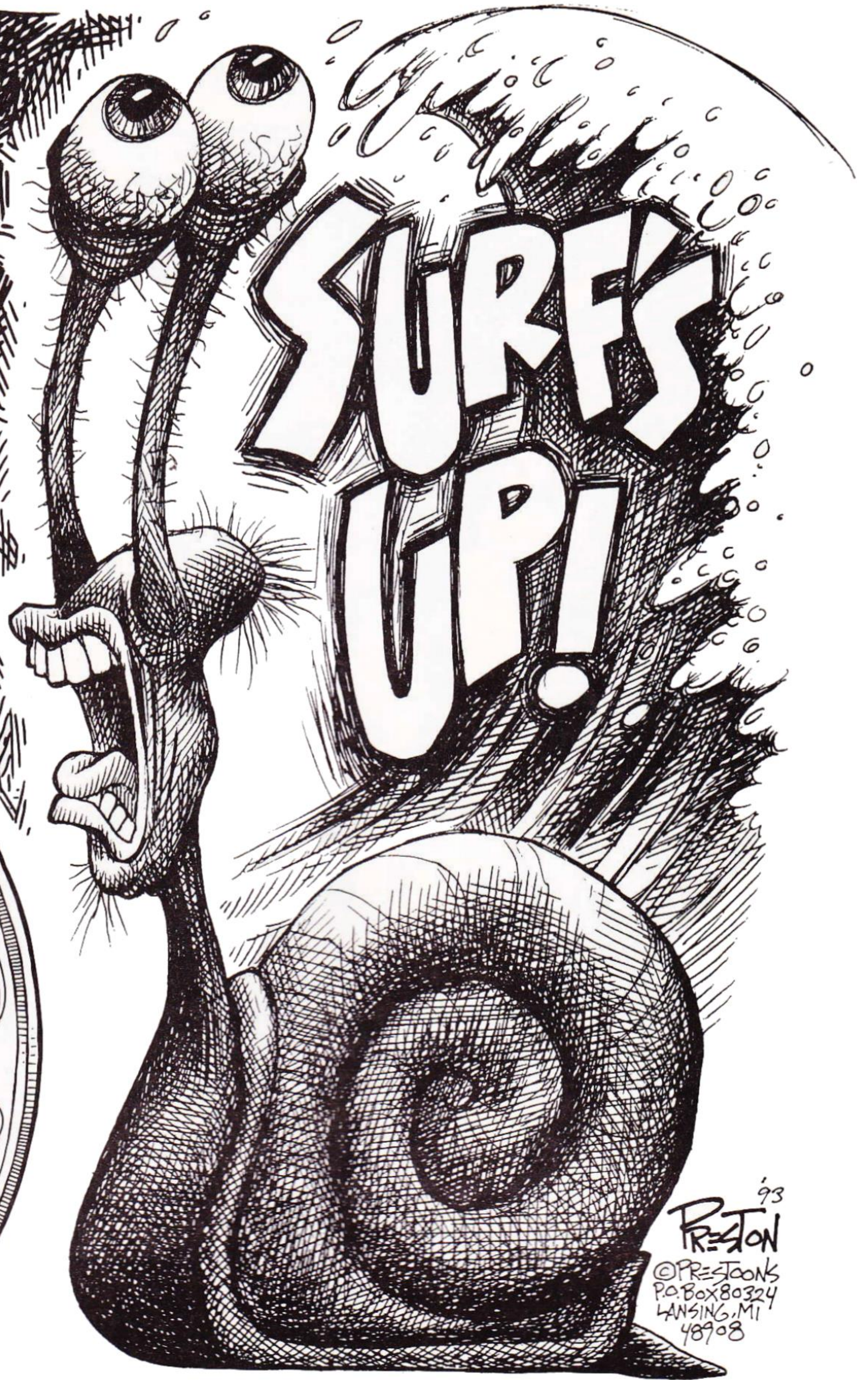


Most of all: have fun, and next time we'll get into 7th chords.

For book info, write: Jeff Scheetz, PO Box 481171, Kansas City MO 64148.

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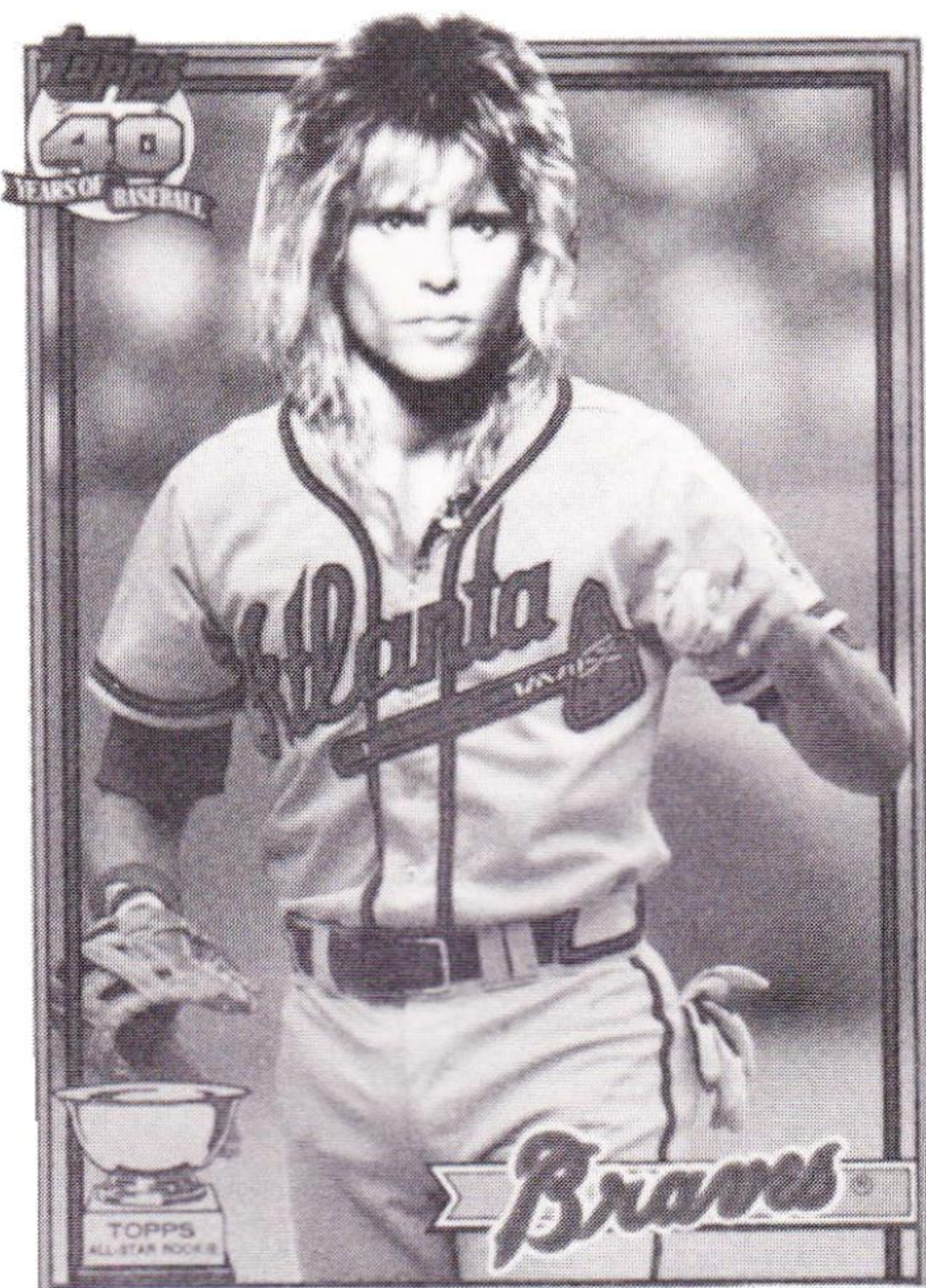
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Inside/Out By David Bach



DAVID BACH

Hey Hey Hey!

I have a confession to make. I never wanted to be a writer. I always wanted to play rock and roll. Ever since I was three years old and my dear sister set me in front of the t.v. to watch The Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show. (That was 1964, so now you know how old I really am) I would have never thought I would be writing a silly column in a Christian heavy metal magazine -- much less being a Christian myself. It's amazing what a great sense of humor our Lord has. He must have a great sense of humor to use people like us. Anyway, last issue I mercilessly assailed the music industry and left you hanging in suspense!

Did the record companies send out a corporate goon squad to bludgeon me into silence? Nah! To them, I'm just another complaining artist. Well bro's, since this is my final column, I would like to thank everyone who read this column and laughed (that means that you got it!). Some of it wasn't funny, but rather serious, and I hope that you got something useful out of it. Mega special thanks to all of you who personally told me at Guardian shows that you read my column. You really encouraged me! (By the way, never be afraid to approach us dudes in bands -- we may seem stand-off-ish, but we are really just like you and you'll never know how

encouraging it is when you come up and talk to us!)

Okay, enuff mushy stuff. Let's get down to business. Ah yea, the music business! What future hope is there for you fledgling upstarts? Plenty indeed! You can make a difference! You can reach people for Jesus Christ! You can be wise and minimize damage to your sanity and billfold at the same time! How? Well, step right up and hear Dr. Dave's fabulous predictions for the future!

Can you imagine a music industry that is ultimately controlled by musicians? An industry that bears the stamp of an artist's vision, rather than that of advertisers, demographic surveys and corporate bureaucracies? It could happen! I'm making no major claims to prophetic utterance, but if such a musical utopia does come to pass, please send me a postcard and say, "Hey Dave -- You were right!" I know, I know, before we congratulate ourselves, we must first achieve the unachievable! (I feel like Winston Churchill!) Let's start by defining our cause. Let's see... How about "Righting the Wrongs of Corporate Injustice?" Nah, too pompous. How about "Better Music Through Fair Business?" Boring! Hey! I've got it! How about "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You?" Bingo! What a concept! I wonder if they teach this at the Harvard School of Business? (Hmmm!)

Now, before my personal predictions, I'd like to make a few recommendations for all you future movers and shakers. First, read the book Selling The Dream by Guy Kawasaki (Harper Business Books - 1991). It is a must read for anybody who wants to make a difference. This book is not overtly Christian, but it is one of the most edifying and inspiring books that I have read in a long time!

Second, buy a MacIntosh computer! You'll love using it! It will blow your mind how many new creative doors you will open within yourself (trust me on this one -- MacIntosh changed my life...and my financial situation).

Ah yes, those predictions! Anyone who really knows me can tell you that I am a total computer nerd. It's true! Like I said, the Mac changed my life. I never touched a computer until 1989. I had no interest. After all, I played Neanderthal

bass guitar in a heavy metal band! Pretty low on the evolutionary scale, huh? Think again! I now design record covers, hassle record companies and generally have fun while working! (...and I still play my beloved bass guitar!)

My big point is that I think that all musicians should dive deep into the world of digital media, as I believe that this is where our future (and freedom!) will be! I believe that, in five years, musicians will be able to direct market to their audiences without having to be signed to a label. There won't be record stores. Music won't need to be pressed to a disc. You'll be able to buy space in a database and make your work available to be downloaded right into people's homes. In the near future, all communication and entertainment media will be brought into your home using a single fiber-optic cable and then funneled through some device that will allow you to access and interact with all kinds of digital media. Wouldn't it be cool if future records were accompanied by a so-called video booklet that allowed you to see pictures, lyrics and even video clips along with the traditional audio soundtrack? The sky is the limit! Have I gone full computer wacko? Probably, but the point is that the future is pointing to lower and lower priced digital work stations that will allow you to make your own records, videos and graphic elements.

Maybe none of this will come to pass, but I feel I would be failing the purpose of this column if I didn't leave you with some positive hopes and dreams for the future. We can sit and make fun of the music business all day, but things will never get better if we are content to merely sit on our hands and complain. So remember, Pray! Read the Bible! Fellowship! (and buy that MacIntosh computer!)

See you at the top!

"Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe." (Proverbs 29:25)

"He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe." (Proverbs 28:26)

"There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." (Proverbs 23:18)

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Kemper Crabb's "The Christian & Art" column is not here this issue, because he was out being filmed in the new Atomic Opera video. We'll let him slide.



Ask Wendi...

Corinthians 6:14-15, we are commanded, "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers...What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?" (NIV) And again in 1 Corinthians 5:9-11, we are instructed "not to associate (closely and habitually) with unchaste (impure) people; not (meaning, of course, that you must) altogether shun the immoral people of this world, or the greedy gossipers and cheaters and thieves or idolaters, since otherwise you would need to get out of the world and human society altogether! But now I write to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of (Christian) brother, if he is known to be guilty of immorality or greed, or is an idolater -- that is, whose souls is devoted to any object that usurps the place of God or (is) a person with a foul tongue...or is a drunkard, or a swindler or a robber. (No) you must not so much as eat with such a person." (Amplified)

For a Christian this definitely narrows the field of datable people. Non-Christians and "worldly" Christians are out of bounds for the serious believer. We don't need to window-shop constantly, but anyone you date should be a scripturally marriageable person. As you reach adulthood, most women are looking for serious relationships, and unfortunately some will do anything to gain security. We should never use romance to manipulate a person to attend church or give mouth service to Christ. Dating is no place for evangelism. There is also this warning in scripture: "Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character." (1 Corinthians 15:33)

As to physical limitations on expressing love to your special person, I would challenge you to be honest and scripturally loving. First of all, that girl is God's daughter and someone's future wife. Christians are commanded to abstain from sexual relations before marriage and are told to learn self-control in sexual matters (Song of Solomon 2:7, Matthew 5:27-28, 1 Corinthians 6:18, Galatians 5:16, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, 1 Timothy 5:2, 2 Timothy 2:22)

Does this mean that everything goes except sexual intercourse? Not if you are serious about sexual purity. Josh McDowell writes his son in *Love, Dad*, "I don't believe (and neither do I) most healthy Christians in a dating relationship, whatever their age, can progress much beyond the point (of holding hands,

hugging, and casual kissing) without asking for trouble...if you are honestly committed to saving sex for marriage, you must realize that...beyond this line you begin to arouse in each other desires that cannot be righteously fulfilled outside of marriage."

That's the honest truth! We are human beings who were created by God to physically respond to certain stimuli. You are only deceiving yourself if you think you can remain pure time after time if you spend romantic evenings French kissing and caressing. You need to set the rules before you date and fall in love. It is almost impossible to save a relationship once you have crossed the line.

Avoiding trouble is the smart way to go. Double date, don't park, don't view sexually stimulating movies or read garbage, don't visit each other at your homes alone. Bedrooms are off limits. Plan your activities before you go out, and keep it public. Another word of caution: sharing devotional time is too intimate for the "just friends" category. It gives the connotations of a more serious commitment. Save reading and praying together for serious relationships, if only to avoid hurt feelings.

When I first became a Christian, I felt bewildered by the concept of purity. It was a foreign word to me. My mind was so worldly. My deaconess at church gave me Psalm 119:9-11 as my guide: "How can a young man (person) keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. I seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You." I wrote all the Bible verses I could find about sexuality and purity on a note-card folder and read them daily. I also made scripture signs for my bedroom and bathroom. It might have looked funny, but I was genuinely serious about capturing a new mind (2 Corinthians 10:5).

In closing, I believe that what I have shared with you pertains to every single Christian, regardless of position, race, or age; single pastors, business persons, factory workers, clerks, and students alike. Remember, the God Who fashioned the universe can surely bring the right person to you. In the meantime, don't play games.

Here's hoping,
Wendi Kaiz

You can write me at: Wendi Kaiser, 920 W. Wilson Ave, Dept. W, Chicago IL 60640.

Dear Wendi,

What do you think about dating? Can you date a nice person who isn't a believer? All the girls in church are not my type, but I've met someone at work who is really something. I could take her to my church. Wow, dating could be a real chance for witnessing. Also, if we really love each other, what's wrong with showing it physically? What are the rules? It's not like I'm a kid anymore.

Sleepless in Atlanta

Dear Sleepless,

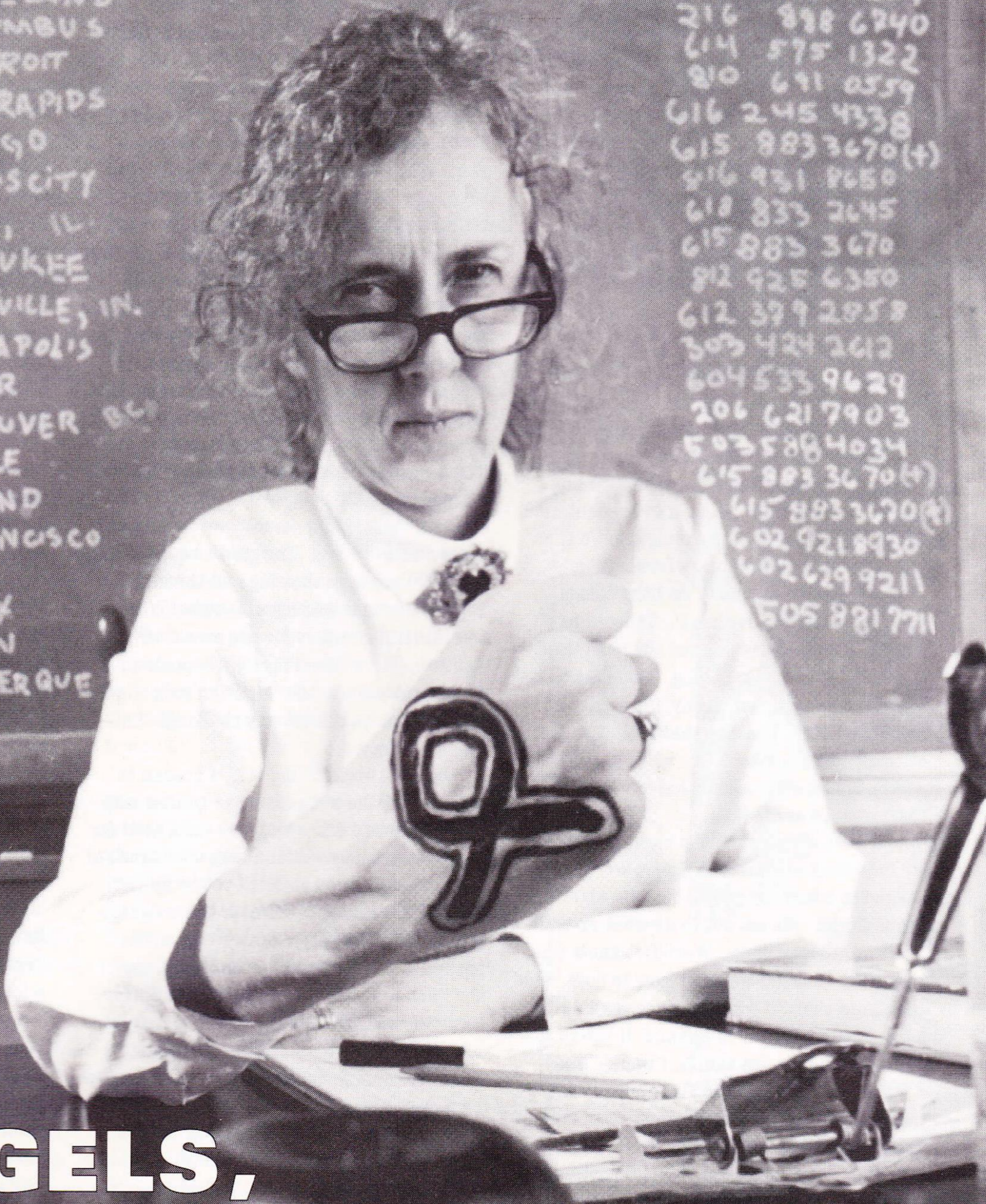
Okay, so you're not a kid anymore. The ante is upped as you grow older. It is now even more important as an adult to choose wisely when it comes to romance. I remember my mother's advice: "Don't date non-Christians, because one day you will fall in love and marry someone you have dated." I sarcastically asked if she thought Christians were superior people. She answered, "Not always. There are wonderful people who have never accepted the Savior, but to marry such a person would be a lifetime of heartaches. You would never be able to have that true unity with a non-Christian. Their values would be based on what seems right and on human desires. It's better to never become involved romantically with an unbeliever in the first place."

She also warned me about wolves in sheep's clothing. "Just because someone goes to church and claims Christianity doesn't mean that they are Christians. Look at their lives. Are they based on biblical values? If not, then don't date them either."

At the time, I thought my mother's thinking was hopelessly antiquated. Now, as a Christian, I find her advice jumping from the Bible. In 2

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Pastor Bob

church. There were over 20 bands there. Everyone was excited. Most of the bands had already begun to play in clubs and were attracting some following. Our dream was to have a regular meeting for the bands to keep them accountable and to start a church to disciple the people. From the very beginning, Sanctuary's main thrust has always been discipleship. We started our "Intense Studies" program a year later.

As the albums started to go out, we realized that we needed to also reach the people that would buy those albums. We had a huge vision: To reach the rock and roll crowd all over the world for Jesus Christ! We got a national 800 number and printed it along with our address on the albums. It was a noble vision, but we really had no idea what we were getting into. If we were getting points for enthusiasm, we were right at 100%. As far as wisdom was concerned, we were at about 50%.

All of this actually brought good news and bad news. The good news was that the 800 lines began to ring and the mail began to pour in as tens of thousands began to contact Sanctuary for one reason or another. We were rolling. We became an important voice in the Christian rock world, and we took on almost any challenge that came our way.

It wasn't long before I began to realize that the work load was getting very heavy. We had more and more of a need for people to get involved and take over much of the load. We began to bring people on the staff. We would look out over the congregation and pick the most mature out of the group. The only problem was that many of the "most mature" were fairly new Christians themselves. Many of them were just not ready for the demands of a growing ministry. But the people kept calling, and we kept on pushing!

I found myself working 16 hour days - almost every day. And still, I felt like I wasn't keeping up. I found I had less and less time for people as I tried to keep the institution going! Before long, if you wanted to see Pastor Bob, you had to make an appointment and wait a few weeks.

I found myself getting tired - but tried to ignore it for the sake of the ministry. I began to make decisions that didn't involve enough prayer and consideration. I had an intense desire to keep pushing and keep the ministry going!

Before long, we stopped doing the band meetings. People were just not showing up. We would start them again from time to time, but found them to be a failure. And it

wasn't that the bands didn't need them. God knows they did. Very few of the bands attended Sanctuary. The only time I ever saw most of them was at a club or a band meeting, which was not nearly often enough to keep any of them accountable. I just didn't have any more hours in the day! I found myself with my name and our 800 number on albums that spiritually I could not stand behind. I justified putting our 800 lines and addresses on the albums as a follow-up for the kids! After all, the 800 lines were getting busier and busier. My focus was on the kids that were receiving the message of Jesus Christ. But, in many cases, I should have known better. I asked myself, "Do I stand behind the band, or the words on the albums?" That, I believe, was my biggest mistake!

I have been "on the inside" of this movement for many years now. I have watched as many things were done "for the cause of Christ." I have worked with lying record companies, crooked promoters, and bands who had no business being in ministry at all! I have watched marriages fail because the husbands were married to their bands and not committed to their families. I began getting calls from people reporting that some of the bands were drinking, doing drugs, and committing adultery on the road and in the clubs. It is insanity to say that all of this is for the cause of Christ!

Now, let me get one thing straight here. I am not saying that every band, record company, or promoter is corrupt. I believe that I have worked with some of the finest, most godly people I have ever known in each category. But there was, and still is, a lot of sin in the camp!

At this point, I began to realize that the institution was not what was important. God doesn't bless the institution, He blesses His Word. When people are receiving the Word of God and applying it to their lives, that is what is most important and also what God will bless. Numbers never count either. It is better to disciple a few and to go really deep with them; than to try to manage many others and leave them half-way founded.

Then, the hardest part came! People began taking pot-shots. The larger the church got, the bigger the "movement" became, the more I found myself and other Christian leaders the recipient of slander and malicious attack. I have been accused of everything from adultery, homosexuality, and child molestation to false doctrine and occultism. It seemed like people didn't care about getting their facts straight. They also

WHERE IS SANCTUARY? In a word...Nashville! As I sit here and write this, I realize that I am older, and wiser, and probably at the best place that I have ever been spiritually. In the last year, God has busted me in a lot of areas, and brought me to a place of reality in my ministry. In the last 8 years that Sanctuary has been going, we have seen some pretty exciting things happen. But I also realize that there are some things we have learned the hard way that need to be passed along. I want to share these things with you openly and honestly from my heart. I realize that I run the risk of being misunderstood (so, what else is new?), but there are some lessons learned that must be shared!

Let's start at the beginning. When we first started Sanctuary, we were very excited to reach the people "on the edge" for Jesus Christ. We set out to do what no one had really done before. We didn't know what to expect - nor did we know how to do it. We just knew that "if we build it, they will come." Hind sight is 20/20 and, if I could go back and re-do a few things, I would. The point is, we need to learn from our mistakes and share them with each other. It makes the whole body a lot stronger.

We saw a need. The "Christian metal" movement had just begun. People were following the bands from gig to gig, but very few of them were being disciplined anywhere. We began to realize that few of them were welcome in the average traditional church. At that time, they were usually told to cut their hair and play folk guitar. We decided to start a church that would cater to the metal crowd, and disciple them in the Word of God. We had a vision to work with the bands and with the people following the bands.

I remember the first band meeting. We held it the same week we started the

didn't care how much those accusations hurt. They didn't care how many people it would hurt in the process. They just wanted to spread some juicy gossip. But I also realize that it comes with the territory. Anyone in the public eye is a prime target. I believed that if I lived above reproach as much as possible and kept my life an open book, I would be okay. I don't think anyone is immune. I was interested in a comment made by Michael Jordan's manager. He says he prepares his clients for the slander that will take place, instead of what might take place. It is his opinion that no one in the public eye can escape it. Sadly, that also applies to the Christian community as well!

So, now I'm in Nashville. I am here to begin a career in country music. Just kidding! Seriously, we moved our headquarters here for several reasons. Most of them financial. As many of you know, California is getting more and more expensive. Many ministries with an international outreach such as our have relocated elsewhere. Our church in California has merged with another church under the leadership of a great pastor. I came to the place where I knew I couldn't continue to lead both the local and international ministries.

In spite of the mistakes, God still used us very mightily. Our greatest success coming from Intense Studies, as well as thousands of kids who have been disciplined through the mail both before and after RAD studies began. Also, there is an equal number of people who have been helped through the 800-lines and letters. People's marriages have been saved. Many have been kept from suicide and brought to the Lord. Many have been healed and delivered from demons and oppression. Others have been grounded in the Word when they couldn't find a "teaching" church in their area. We have a lot to be thankful for!

At the present time, we have not started any big ministry here in Nashville. In fact, we have done nothing. No one really knows that we're even here! We're waiting on the Lord and learning from past mistakes. We're enjoying being a family. We are taking time to listen to each other and encourage each other. We are also getting involved in some of the churches here locally. There are about 25 of us who have moved here from California to work with this ministry. I'm sure that each will have a vital role in the future of Sanctuary.

So, what have I learned? I have been a Christian now for over 36 years. It seems the longer I know the Lord, the more I realize I have a long way to go! I am continuing to learn the importance of staying in tune with God. It is very important to me to be a man of integrity and accountability in the ministry. God is still teaching me great

lessons and giving me great burdens. And, I am learning how to say "no" to things that I can't handle.

We are not in Nashville to start a church. We continue to get hundreds of calls on the 800 lines every month and the mail continues to pour in. I am enjoying correspondence with many of you, and am still very excited about international ministries! In the Fall, we will continue our Intense Studies program. For those of you who would like to come out and study the Word with us for six months, let me know. Besides that, I'm sure we will have some kind of a Bible study or Righteous Rap before too long here in Nashville - when the time is right and when we are rested!

But I have saved the best for last. It is in our weakness that Christ can best demonstrate His power. I think Paul said it best in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10: "...there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." You see, today's failure can become tomorrow's strength. I have realized three important truths about failure:

1. **Failure is a part of success.** I was reading about failing and getting back up again. You always hear about Babe Ruth's 714 home runs. But what you don't hear about is the 1,330 times he struck out on his way to all those home runs! There is an old Japanese proverb that says, "Fall down 7, stand up 8!" Failure is a part of success!

2. **Each failure is of value.** As we fail, we learn. We grow a little and understand a bit better how to become more Christlike. Brian Newman tells the story of a businessman who made a million dollar mistake and promptly wrote his letter of resignation and took it to the President of the company. "Why are you resigning?" the President asked. "Well, in light of the million dollar mistake I made, I figured you'd want me to leave," the businessman said. "No. That was a million dollar lesson," the President replied. "Now you're too valuable for us to get rid of!"

3. **Failure is an opportunity for growth!** Galatians 5 talks about the fruit of the Holy Spirit. When I fail, I realize it is a good opportunity to become more Christlike. It is a great time to allow Christ to produce more patience, more self-control, more long suffering, etc.

I can honestly say that this last year has been the toughest year of my life. It has brought me to my knees on a daily basis. And every time I came to the Lord, He heard me. He has always been faithful, and I have learned to trust Him more and more. He is truly my best friend. He is my Savior. He is my Lord. The only reason that I am still in the ministry today is because I know Whom I am serving. He continues to give me an excitement and a yearning for people to be saved. As long as He does, I will continue to be His servant - and yours.

Write to Me! "Pastor Bob's Column,"
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wor • ship: extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem. vol • ume: a considerable quantity. To worship at full volume is to show a considerable quantity of extravagant respect to someone. The only One worthy of such extravagant respect is God -- and worthy He is!

God above is so worthy of our affection and admiration! He alone deserves extravagant expressions of devotion and love. God is so awesome and wonderful that He deserves anything we could give Him. God is so wonderful that we should worship Him with all we've got. That's what worshipping at full volume is all about -- giving our all for a wonderful God that deserves every bit of it. A repentant prostitute knelt at the feet of Jesus one night and began to wipe His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them (Luke 7:37-38). This is extravagant respect!

Another woman in the Bible worshipped Jesus in a similar way (Mark 14:3-5). As Jesus was reclining at a table, she brought an alabaster (marble-like stone) jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on His head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages!" The average salary of the American worker today is, let's say, somewhere around \$15,000. Can you image breaking a jar of perfume worth more than \$15,000 and pouring its contents over someone's head? That's extravagant! Jesus is worth it -- totally!

God is so very worthy of our worship. He deserves it. He is wonderful. He is awesome! He is the Creator of all the universe and His love is unfathomable. He is the One True God and He is knowable! He not only receives our worship, but He seeks it. He seeks those who will worship the Father in spirit and truth (God is spirit and His worshippers must know Who they worship -- John 4:23). He has been seeking

worshippers since He created the earth and, if we look at our future in Heaven, worship is exactly what we'll be doing: "I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: 'To Him Who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever!'" (Revelation 5:13) In heaven there will be a great multitude of people that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They will all stand before the throne and worship God (Revelation 7:9-10).

Worship at full volume -- it's not just a power chord in Jesus' Name. It's total abandonment in worship of the King of Kings! You are the only one in the entire universe who can give God your heart in worship. It is your totally unique gift that you can offer the Lord your God -- and nobody else can duplicate it. Offer your heart unto the Lord. Offer him your vocal chords. Shout His praises at the top of your lungs. Go for it!

Do you really wanna do this? If you want a practical application for this call to worship, there is an event this summer that is a great place to get started. It is in a different context than your typical four walls of a church building. This event is uniting believers all over the earth in public praise of our deserving Savior. It's called the "Global March for Jesus" and it's simply thousands upon millions of believers in Jesus taking to the streets of their city and vocally declaring praise to God.

They are worshipping at full volume and, if you check it out, people are probably doing it near where you live. If

they're not, start your own. Take to heart the Psalm that says, "Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His Name; make His praise glorious!" (Psalm 66:1-2) There were 165,000 believers marching in Sao Paulo, Brazil last year; 800,000 in 350 cities in 49 of the United States, and a total estimate of 1.6 million from 40 different nations around the world. This year the numbers will increase. Do something personal and increase the number by one in your city!

WORSHIP AT



FULL VOLUME